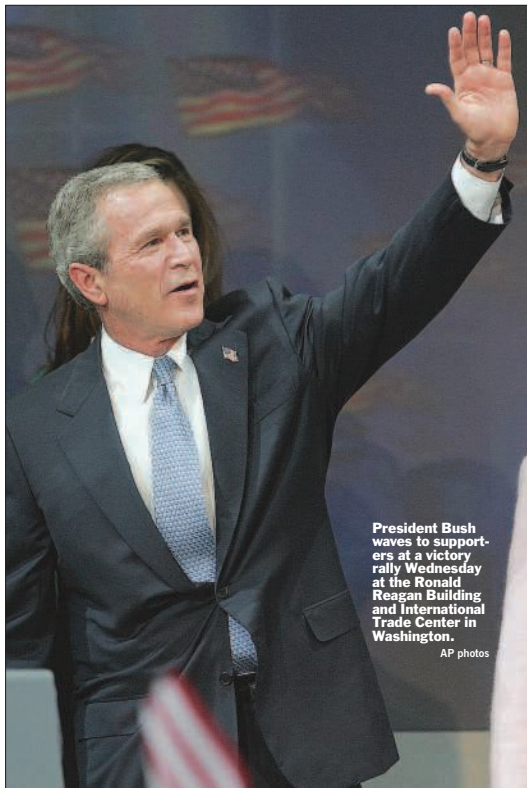


Bush wins 2nd term



President Bush waves to supporters at a victory rally Wednesday at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington.

AP photos

Full coverage of Election 2004, including Senate, House, governors' races inside Stars and Stripes' 16-page section

Beginning on Page 3

Kerry concedes

Here are the latest nationwide election returns in the race for president with 99 percent of the nation's precincts reporting. Sen. John Kerry has won 20 states and the District of Columbia with 252 electoral votes. President Bush has won 29 states with 274 electoral votes, and leads in two states with 12 electoral votes.

Candidate	Popular vote	Percent	Electoral votes
Bush * (R)	58,598,283	51%	274
Kerry (D)	55,067,893	48%	252
Other	1,057,168	1%	0

Needed to win: 270 of the 538 electoral votes from the 50 states and the District of Columbia.



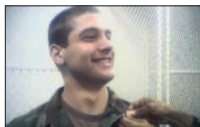
Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., pats Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., before the start of Kerry's concession speech Wednesday in Boston's Faneuil Hall.



Pistons open title defense with victory

Back page

Antonio McDyess, left, and Darvin Ham



Family of soldier kidnapped in Iraq refuses to think he's dead

Page 22

Spc. Keith "Matt" Maupin

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Baltimore water taxi wreck: The operator of a Baltimore water taxi that flipped in the Inner Harbor last March killing five passengers, including three from Virginia, will cease operations immediately under an agreement announced by its owner.

Seaport Taxi's five full-time employees have been let go and as many as 32 part-time employees will no longer work as captains and mates for the company that served the Inner Harbor for five years, officials for the nonprofit Living Classrooms Foundation said Tuesday.

Flu vaccine shortage: Nearly 1,900 doses of the scarce flu vaccine spoiled when a refrigerator broke down in West Allis, Wis., the second batch at the same hospital to be ruined in a month.

The egg-based vaccine had been given to 300 patients and 725 doctors and staff members at West Allis Memorial Hospital. Another 850 doses were discarded because it may have lost its effectiveness, said Scott Thompson, vice president of medical operations with Aurora Health Care.

Those who received shots were never in danger of falling ill and will be revaccinated, Thompson said.

Planned school attack: Two students have pleaded not guilty to charges that they plotted an attack on their high school in Plymouth, Mass.

Kerris, 16, and Joseph Nee, 18, were jailed without bail Tuesday, although a judge said she would consider a request to release Nee based on arguments that he is not dangerous.

Military

Jenkins verdict: Four decades after he was killed in North Korea, an American soldier pleaded guilty Wednesday at Camp Zama, Japan, to abandoning his Army unit in 1965, tearfully recounting his fears of death and the depression he said drove him to desert.

Sgt. Charles Robert Jenkins, now a frail and ailing 64-year-old, was given a light 30-day jail term in a case that had pitted American demands for justice with Tokyo's call for leniency so Jenkins could settle down here with his Japanese wife.

In gripping court-martial testimony that shed light on a long-standing Cold War mystery, Jenkins said that he never intended to stay in North Korea, and he sited the harsh treatment — including beatings — he was subject to during 39 years in the communist nation.

Jenkins, in full military dress for the proceedings on a U.S. Army base outside Tokyo, boldly owned up to his crimes. "Ma'am, I am in fact guilty," he told the judge, Col. Denise Vowell. He also pleaded guilty to aiding the enemy by teaching English to military cadets in the 1980s, though he said he and his family would have faced hardship if he refused.

World

West Bank exodus: Israel's parliament gave preliminary approval Wednesday to compensation payments for Jewish settlers from Gaza and four West Bank settlements, clearing a major hurdle in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to evacuate 25 settlements next year.

By a vote of 64-44 with 9 abstentions, the Knesset passed the first of three votes on compensation packages that will give hun-



Dutch filmmaker's death: A demonstrator cries while attending a protest in Amsterdam in honor of Theo van Gogh, 47, a Dutch filmmaker who was slain in the street Tuesday. He was repeatedly shot and stabbed to death. A suspected Islamic fundamentalist with alleged terrorist ties was detained in the death Wednesday, Dutch authorities said. Van Gogh had received threats after criticizing the treatment of women under Islam.

dreds of thousands of dollars to the 8,800 settlers in Gaza and parts of the West Bank.

Spanish terror trial: An al-Qaida suspect awaiting extradition to Spain after his arrest in Germany refused to give evidence Wednesday at the trial of a Moroccan man accused of helping the Sept. 11 hijackers.

Mamoun Darkazanli, a Syrian-German businessman, is accused by Spanish authorities of being a key al-Qaida figure and giving the group logistical and financial support. He appears in a 1999 wedding video with the three suicide pilots who lived and studied in Hamburg — Mohamed Atta, Marwan al-Shehhi and Ziad Jarrah.

UAE presidential funeral: Dignitaries and heads of state prayed Wednesday over the flag-draped body of United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan inside a capital mosque, paying final respects to a man who transformed his desert country into an oil and business hub over more than three decades.

After the prayers, Sheikh Zayed's body was carried out and driven slowly away from the Sheikh Sultan bin Zayed Mosque, in a vehicle mobbed by Emiratis in traditional white robes waving his photograph.

Also Wednesday, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan was chosen as president of the United Arab Emirates, the official Emirates news agency WAM reported.

The decision was taken by the Supreme Council — which comprises the leaders of the seven constituent emirates, their brothers and their crown princes, WAM said.

EU constitution: Yielding to pressure from opposition parties, the Spanish government has agreed to consult immediately with the nation's highest court on whether the European Union constitution clashes with this country's own charter, officials said Wednesday.

The EU constitution, signed by government leaders in Rome on Friday, says it "will take priority" over laws of member states. But Spain's 1978 charter says it embodies its supreme law.

The government had said last week that it would first go ahead with a Feb. 20 referendum on the EU charter, then decide whether

to confer with Spain's Constitutional Court on whether the two texts are compatible.

Japan earthquake: The death toll from last month's magnitude-6.8 earthquake and its aftershocks in northern Japan rose to 38 when two men in their 60s died of stress attributed to the disaster, police said Wednesday.

The 6.8-magnitude earthquake on Oct. 23 in Niigata prefecture and several large aftershocks in the days that followed also have injured more than 2,400 people. Niigata is about 160 miles north of Tokyo.

Asian bird flu: A grey heron found dead near Hong Kong's border with mainland China had avian flu, but there were no signs that the bird had spread the deadly virus that's killed 32 people in Asia this year, officials said Wednesday.

Test results confirmed the bird had the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu. Agricultural, Fisheries and Conservation Department spokesman Albert Hui said Wednesday. But the government said earlier there is no indication that the bird has spread its disease.

Kosovo war victims: Dozens of ethnic Albanians blocked a key road in Kosovo's capital Wednesday, calling on authorities to resolve the fate of thousands who vanished during Kosovo's war.

About 100 protesters, including many relatives of the missing, sat down in the streets near the headquarters of Kosovo's government. Many of them carried framed photographs of missing family members. Demonstrators planned to block the road for long periods over the next three days.

Sudan peace talks: After months of peace talks, the Sudanese government and rebels moved close Wednesday to signing their first accord aimed at stopping ground and air attacks in the war-ravaged Darfur region.

African Union mediators shuttled between Sudanese rebel and government delegations in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, trying to secure the agreement, a day after reports of fresh violence in Darfur.

Stories and pictures from The Associated Press

ELECTION 2004

Bush seals it with narrow Ohio win

President gets four more years to pursue Iraq war, tax-cutting agenda

BY CAL WOODWARD
AND RON FOURNIER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush won four more years in the White House on Wednesday, pocketing a public confession from Democrat John Kerry that closed out a loud and long campaign fought over the war on terror and the economy.

"We cannot win this election," the Massachusetts senator said in an emotional campaign farewell delivered not far from his Beacon Hill home.

In an appearance in Faneuil Hall in Boston, where he launched his quest for the White House more than a year ago, Kerry said he had telephoned Bush to congratulate him on his victory.

"We talked about the danger of division in our country and the need — the desperate need — for unity, for finding common ground and coming together," Kerry said. "Today, I hope we can begin the healing," he said.

Bush was to make his victory speech in Washington after Kerry concluded.

Kerry's twin concessions, one private, the other played out before supporters and a nationwide television audience, followed his decision not to contest Bush's lead in make-or-break Ohio.

The re-election triumph gave Bush a new term to pursue the war in Iraq and a conservative, tax-cutting agenda — and probably the chance to name one or more justices to an aging Supreme Court.

He also will preside alongside expanded Republican majorities in Congress. The GOP gained four Senate seats and led for a fifth. The party bolstered its majority in the House by at least two.

Ohio's 20 electoral votes gave Bush 274 in the Associated Press count, four more than the 270 needed for victory. Kerry had 252 electoral votes, with Iowa (7) and New

Mexico (5) unsettled. Bush was winning 51 percent of the popular vote to 48 percent for his rival. He led by more than 3 million

ballots.

Officials in both camps described the telephone conversation between two campaign warriors.

A Democratic source said Bush called Kerry a worthy, tough and honorable opponent. Kerry told Bush the country was too divided, the source said, and Bush agreed. "We really have to do something about it," Kerry said, according to the official.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said Bush told Kerry, "I think you were an admirable, honorable opponent."

Kerry, 61 and serving his fourth term in the Senate, placed his call after weighing unattractive options overnight. With Bush holding fast to a six-figure lead in make-or-break Ohio, Kerry could give up

or trigger a struggle that would have stirred memories of the bitter recount in Florida that propelled Bush to the White House in 2000.

Kerry's call was the last bit of drama in a campaign full of it.

While Bush remains in the White House, he returns to the Senate, part of the shrunken Democratic minority.

He acted, hours after White House chief of staff Andy Card declared Bush the winner and White House aides said the president was giving Kerry time to consider his next step.

One senior Democrat familiar with the discussions in Boston said Kerry's running mate, North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, was suggesting that he shouldn't concede.

The official said Edwards, a trial lawyer, wanted to make sure all options were explored and that Democrats pursued them as thoroughly as Republicans would if the positions were reversed.

Advisers said the campaign just wanted one last look for uncounted ballots that might close the 136,000-vote advantage Bush held in Ohio.

Kerry concedes defeat, but vows to continue fight

BY MARY DALRYMPLE
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Sen. John Kerry brought his long White House campaign to an end Wednesday, conceding the presidential election to George W. Bush and saying the time had come to "begin the healing."

"I'm sorry that we got here a little bit late and a little bit short," said a hoarse and stoic Kerry, noting that he had called Bush earlier at the White House and said they had a "good conversation."

"In America, it is vital that every vote count ... but the outcome should be decided by voters, not a protracted legal fight," Kerry said. "I would not give up this fight if there was a chance that we would prevail."

But Kerry also said that "there won't be enough outstanding votes for us to win Ohio, and therefore we cannot win this election."

"In this journey, you have given me the honor and the gift of learning from you," the senator said.

"I'm going to fight on for the people and the principles that I've stood for," said Kerry, who returns to the Senate to complete his term. Friends and admirers who joined him, running mate John Edwards and their families applauded lovingly during his 15-minute speech at this city's historic Faneuil Hall.

Preceding Kerry, Edwards said, "well, it was a long night and a long morning ... We will continue to fight for every vote. We know every vote matters in our America and we will honor each and every one of you. We didn't start fighting for you when this campaign began and we won't stop fighting for you when this campaign ends."

With their families aligned in the front row of a large crowd of supporters at this city's historic Faneuil Hall, Kerry and Edwards appeared before a mammoth painting by George P. A. Healy. Measuring almost 27 feet in width, it depicts a famous 19th-century exchange between Daniel Webster and South Carolina Sen. Robert Hayne about the federal Constitution's jurisdiction over the states.

Inscribed on the frame are Webster's famous words: "Liberty and Union, Now and Forever."

They had gathered earlier at Kerry's Beacon Hill home. His two-year campaign for the White House ended abruptly with the loss of the make-or-break state of Ohio in a close election.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, who campaigned heavily for Kerry over the past year, entered Kerry's house Wednesday morning with his wife, Victoria. Also spotted going inside were David



Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., left talks with his running mate Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., before delivering their concession speeches Wednesday in Boston's Faneuil Hall.

Thorne, Kerry's longtime friend and former brother-in-law, stepson Andre Heinz, and brother Cameron Kerry.

Kerry called Bush shortly before 11 a.m. to concede defeat after his campaign determined Ohio was out of reach.

"Congratulations, Mr. President," Kerry said.

Hours earlier, Kerry huddled inside his home with advisers while running mate John Edwards addressed the nation from Copley Square.

Both Democrats had campaigned until the last minute, mindful of the close finish four years ago.

"We've waited four years for this victory, we can wait one more night," Edwards, standing outside on a cold, drizzly night, told supporters still awake in the wee hours of the morning.

Advisers later said the campaign just wanted one last look at the uncounted ballots in Ohio, where Bush held a 136,000-vote advantage. The state's 20 electoral votes sealed victory for Bush.

In 2000, Bush sweated out a 36-day recount before a Supreme Court ruling awarded him Florida and the White House.

Kerry spent the campaign's

final weeks going after Bush with a steady stream of criticism over his decision to wage war in Iraq and his push for costly tax cuts the Democrat said were irresponsible.

The four-term Massachusetts senator would tap into voters' pessimistic frame of mind, evident in exit polls, which showed them worried about new terrorist attacks, job losses and the war in Iraq.

The Democrat seized on three televised debates as his best opportunity to make these arguments to his largest audience, and his support ticked up after he delivered three solid performances.

ELECTION 2004

4 more years: Outlook for Bush's 2nd term

BY BILL STRAUB

Scripts Howard News Service

What will President Bush do in a second term? From Iraq to the economy, here's a look ahead at the next four years.

CABINET

Some changes are anticipated. Secretary of State Colin Powell has hinted that he may depart. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice is mentioned as a possible replacement. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson plans to return to Wisconsin, looking at a possible run for Senate in two years. Whoever gets Thompson's Cabinet job likely will have to win the approval of the president's social conservative base.

Norman Mineta, the lone Democrat in the inner circle, has been in ill health and may leave the administration. Otherwise, look for the usual cast of characters to return — including Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Attorney General John Ashcroft.

IRAQ

At the top of the president's agenda is shepherding a successful national election in Iraq, now scheduled for Jan. 30 — a week after Bush is sworn in again on the Capitol steps. The Pentagon is expected to build up the U.S. force in Iraq in advance of the election and intensify the offensive to clear Iraqi insurgent strongholds as Fallujah, Ramadi and Samarra of U.S. enemy elements.

After the Iraq election, if it goes reasonably well, Bush is likely to bring home at least a symbolic number of U.S. soldiers to signal the end of the war. But the war and U.S. occupation will end.

MILITARY

Barring an attack on America



President Bush will probably steer clear of any sizable new military operations that may further tax the military during his second term.

or its forces overseas, Bush will steer clear of any sizable new military engagements that would further tax the already overstretched U.S. military. He will push for diplomatic and economic sanctions against Iran and North Korea, if both nations continue to thumb

their noses at the United States by advancing their nuclear weapons program. Short of war with North Korea or any other hostile nation, Bush will not seek to reestablish the military draft, which the Pentagon inalterably opposes.

Bush will likely pour more money into the troubled, \$25 billion effort to build a national ballistic missile defense, even though it still has not been proven conclusively to work.

HEALTH CARE

Bush proposes to spend \$90 billion to \$200 billion over 10 years for tax credits to help low-income people buy insurance and for lots more people to set up tax-exempt savings accounts to help pay for medical expenses not covered by insurance. He would also start a new initiative to enroll children in Medicaid and state health insurance programs.

Enacted as part of the law that created a Medicare prescription drug plan for seniors, health savings accounts have been slow to catch on as an option to employer-provided coverage although the government is offering them to federal employees during the current open season for benefits.

Bush will allow more seniors to have health savings accounts, and he backs tax deductions for long-term care insurance and tax help for caregivers. He would continue to encourage seniors to enroll in private health plans to hold down costs.

STEM CELL RESEARCH Stem cell research should remain at current levels during the president's second term, and the government would continue to encourage more private involvement in health research and allow market forces to set prices.

TAXES Bush will push for a permanent extension of his tax cuts including lower rates for income taxes, capital gains and dividend income and a reduction in federal estate taxes. At the same time, he has talked vaguely about reforming the tax code, although Congress seems unlikely to agree to whole-

sale reform. Congressional Republicans are agreeable to permanent extension of the Bush tax cuts. That is likely to cause \$6 billion worth of federal deficits in the next decade alone, adding pressure to cut federal spending on popular programs.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Bush could let younger workers put some of their Social Security payroll taxes into private investment accounts, but neither he nor his blue-ribbon commission that studied the issue has said how the change would be financed.

SUPREME COURT

Bush says he has no litmus test for Supreme Court appointments, promising in the presidential debates, "I'll name judges that know the difference between personal opinion and the strict interpretation of the law." He went on to cite the 1857 Dred Scott decision upholding slavery before the Civil War as an example of the "judicial activism" he would not mention, noting that the decision is frequently likened by abortion opponents to the 1973 ruling in Roe v. Wade that made abortion a nationwide right.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist's thyroid cancer has revived speculation about a vacancy, and at least one opening is likely in the next four years on a court where Clarence Thomas is the only justice younger than 65.

LAWSUITS

Bush has long championed tort reform, seeking to limit the punitive damages awarded in lawsuits. With an even stronger Republican Senate governing his back, the president might achieve his goal this go-around.

ABORTION

Bush will continue to let social conservatives fight what they want to hear but it's unlikely that he will take the steps necessary to ban abortion.

Election victory is a validation for Bush, GOP

BY JOHN F. HARRIS

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Four years later, it is still a divided country — perhaps more clearly than ever — but as a long election night bled into morning, the evidence was clear that it is becoming a more Republican one.

President Bush commanded the popular-vote majority that eluded him in 2000. And in an impressive run of battleground states, he seemed to win validation for a campaign that unabashedly stressed conservative themes and reveled in partisan combat against Democratic nominee John Kerry.

On the same night, Republicans expanded their majority in the Senate and held the Democratic leader on the ropes. It seemed likely they would also make gains in the House, as voters in an age of terrorism seemed to let go of their 1990s preference for divided government and gave a narrow but unmistakable mandate for the GOP.

These gains came in the face of what Democrats for months had been touting as important advantages: a party unified early around its nominee, an energized base filled with momentum against the incumbent, unprecedented fund raising and voter mobilization efforts.

Analysis

They came despite some stiff headwinds for Bush, including a steady stream of bad news out of Iraq and a weak record on jobs.

The results are "an indication that we still are clearly a divided nation," said John Pitney, a political scientist at California's Claremont McKenna College. But he added that Bush's strong performance in Florida and a clear tilt his way in Ohio, combined with the GOP strength in Congress, means that this rough party has gained a more "Republican edge."

Tuesday's balloting did in several instances validate important elements of the Bush political model. This strategy has been based from the outset of Bush's term on carefully tending to the Republican Party's conservative base, and a governing strategy based more often on trying to vanquish political adversaries rather than split the difference with them.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the Iraq war, Bush strategists have also calculated that there is not so much difference between base voters and centrist "swing" voters — both, they maintained,

are concerned above all with national security and lower taxes. The strategy defied the wisdom of many Democrats since Bill Clinton, which held that swing voters were a distinct political entity and would not respond to a president as partisan as Bush.

As it happened, though, Bush's strategy Tuesday night worked much like it was supposed to, with most Republican-leaning states taken quickly off the table, and battleground Florida falling with relative comfort — 52 percent to 47 percent — into Bush's column. In Ohio, where Kerry and independent liberal groups waged an unprecedented campaign to register and turn out new Democratic voters, Bush responded with an unprecedented effort of his own that seems to have produced roughly as many Republican voters in rural and "collar county" suburban areas.

"One bit of conventional wisdom was that high turnout would benefit the Democrats," Pitney said. "Republicans may do it differently, but they proved they can produce high turnout, too."

Scott Reed, manager of Bob Dole's campaign in 1996, said few Republicans expected Bush to do so well, and said the evangelical vote was where he "really ran up the numbers."

"This was part of their national strategy to play to the base, and that's what they did to close the deal," Reed said. "They stuck with it. They didn't waver when there was a push from some in the party to move to the middle, and it paid off in spades."

If the wisdom among many political commentators proves right about this election, it will likely do more to illuminate the country's deep cultural and ideological divisions — which surfaced vividly in the 2000 race and have persisted in a dozen terrorist attacks, two wars and a hard-fought election — than bring them to closure.

This result was deeply confusing to centrist Democrats, who saw only the grim tidings for Kerry but because of what it suggested about the state of American politics. Virginia Gov. Mark R. Warner, a moderate Democrat who was high approval ratings in a deeply conservative state, said Bush's approach may convince people in both parties that cultivating their bases is the right way to win elections — even though it regards this as a dubious model for governing.

"The center is still where most Americans are," said Warner, in an interview Tuesday night. "The results were clear. 'The thing that struck me was the center is how rarely either candidate appealed to people in the other party.'"

ELECTION 2004

Troops eye election between Iraq missions

Many believe outcome will have little effect on operations in Mideast

Stars and Stripes

Troops deployed downrange were eagerly watching the election news in between combat missions and regular work.

Some said President Bush's re-election creates a continuity needed to complete the job in Iraq, while others said regardless of who won, they didn't expect much to change for the U.S. military in Iraq.

The United States has 138,000 troops stationed in Iraq and thousands more in the region supporting the war effort.

"I don't think either candidate was going to up and run [from Iraq]," said 1st Lt. Joe Guthrie, the Iraqi National Guard liaison for the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment based near Mosul.

"I think the same would [have] happened if [Sen. John] Kerry was elected," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Morak, section sergeant for the 73rd Engineer Company mobility support platoon. He doubted either candidate would "pick up and leave" Iraq.

Morak said the end to the politicking allows Bush to focus more on his troops in the region. It also sends the signal that the American people support him.

Having such a close election does show democracy in action, a positive sign for the burgeoning democracy in Iraq.

"I think it could send a message to them that both parties can be incorporated," Guthrie said.

At Forward Operating Base



Soldiers watch election results Wednesday at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent at Forward Operating Base Marez near Mosul, Iraq.

Danger in Tikrit, Spc. Nathan Rancocoe of the 197th Military Police Battalion of the New Hampshire National Guard said the results aren't necessarily good news.

"I was hoping Kerry would win," said Rancocoe, 20, of Colebrook, N.H. "I think there's a much better chance I'll be back for another tour ... and I don't want to do another tour."

Spc. Savoy Parker, of the Kitzingen, Germany-based 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, also was rooting for the Massachusetts senator.

"I was hoping Kerry would go ahead and win, because America needs a change," said Parker, 26, of LaPorte, Texas.

But 1st Lt. Crystal Bahe, 24, Barnesville, Minn., 502nd Engineer Company out of Hanau, Ger-

many, said Kerry's lack of a clarity on the issues hurt his chances.

"I'm pretty surprised it's as close as it is," Bahe said. "I think maybe if Kerry had given more of a clearer stance [on the issues], it might have turned his way."

A couple of troops deployed to Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti said they were pleased with the results.

Marine Sgt. Rex Cox of Spartan-

"I don't think either candidate was going to up and run [from Iraq]."

1st Lt. Joe Guthrie

Iraqi National Guard liaison,
1st Battalion,
24th Infantry Regiment

burg, S.C., and the 1st Provisional Security Company said he was happy that Bush won.

"I'm a Republican, so that's the side I tend to support," said Cox.

He added that it was important for everyone in the country to be on the same page.

"A lot of people feel it's not right for us to be over here [in the Middle East]," Cox said. "But Bush supports us and I support his decision. You've got to support your president. If you don't, all you have is confusion."

Chief Petty Officer Patrick Wiers of Jacksonville, Fla., the senior enlisted adviser for Expeditionary Medical Unit 10, said Bush has been good to the troops.

"I feel that for the last four years President Bush has been decent to the military," Wiers said. "I'd be happy to see him win. He's given us decent pay raises. Why create change if you don't have to?"

Stars and Stripes reporters Juliana Gittler, Steve Liewer and Charlie Coon contributed to this report.

Bush victory finds favor among troops in Europe

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

Finally, it's over. When Sen. John Kerry announced late Wednesday afternoon in Europe that he was conceding the election, President Bush was formally assured of a second term.

But the delay in the announcement had not dissuaded most voters from celebrating or commiserating over the day.

The line to get in to the election-night party Tuesday at the Amerika Haus in Frankfurt, Germany, was almost as long as the ones at polling stations in the United States.

Inside, hundreds of people enjoyed free food and drinks as they watched the election results roll in. Among them was Republican Jeffrey Jowett, wearing a big "W04" sticker on his jacket.

At 4:30 a.m. CET, and Bush with a projected lead in electoral votes at 193-112, Jowett said he was very pleased. "I hoped it would be clear, but you can never be sure," he said.

At the Army's European headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany, soldiers were in early checking election results over the Internet, said Sgt. Jason Bostic. A bodyguard for top commanders, Bostic said the

mood was upbeat.

"Probably 98 percent of the people in our detachment are for Bush, so most of us have been pretty excited," said Bostic. "I don't think people realize how many soldiers wouldn't re-enlist if Kerry wins."

His buddy and fellow bodyguard Sgt. Steven Hodson agreed. "If Kerry were to win, I'd probably want to see how things went, but I'd lean very heavily on getting out of the Army," he said.

Both point to record pay raises for those in uniform and improvements to quality of life while Bush has been in office as the foundation for their support.

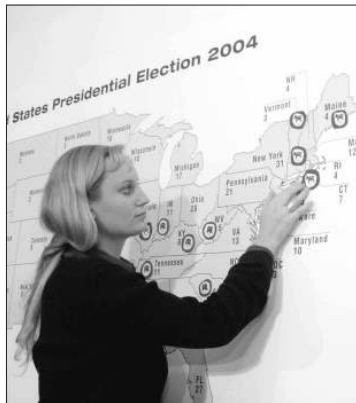
"He's for the military," Hodson said of Bush. "He got us up to date with equipment and with pay and [has] done a good job running the war."

In Bamberg, Germany, veteran and civilian employee Tim Gallton said he thought Bush had the election even with Ohio's vote in doubt.

"Based on what I saw on TV, I think Bush got it," Gallton said. "It went the way I wanted it to, so I'm happy. I don't want a Democrat in office right now. I don't think that would be good for military people."

"I don't think people realize how many soldiers wouldn't re-enlist if Kerry wins."

Sgt. Jason Bostic
Heidelberg, Germany



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Kristen Koelper of the Amerika Haus adds a donkey sticker to a United States map representing a state that was projected to go to John Kerry during the election night party at the Amerika Haus in Frankfurt, Germany. Hundreds of Germans, Americans and other internationals turned out to watch election coverage on television.

SEE REACTION ON PAGE 6

ELECTION 2004

Overseas ballots carried little weight

BY TRACI CARL
The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Some spent months campaigning overseas, and they turned out in growing numbers to cast absentee ballots. But the votes of Americans living abroad not only didn't play a key role in this election — many didn't even get a chance to be counted.

Democratic candidate John Kerry conceded defeat to President Bush on Wednesday, even though 5.5 million to 6 million absentee and provisional ballots had yet to be tallied.

In 2000, Bush's victory was certified only with the overseas ballots. That fact encouraged a dramatic rise in overseas registration and an increase in political activism abroad leading up to this election.

It was no different on election night, as Americans around the world packed U.S. Embassy election bashes or opted for smaller, partisan gatherings.

All agreed they had taken a much greater interest in this year's election, citing concern about U.S. foreign policy, terrorism and the role of overseas votes in the last election.

In Mexico — home to an estimated 1 million Americans, more than any other foreign country — a hushed crowd of Kerry supporters packed a small bar to watch as states fell to Bush.

"I'm not leaving until I know my boy won!" said Eric Larrondo, 26, a Kerry volunteer who became involved in politics

after losing several friends in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Larrondo, who grew up in New York, said he had Kerry supporters asking him Tuesday how they could register at the last minute.

"I had a person knocking on my door wanting to vote, and I had to turn them away," he said.

At Planet Hollywood in Paris, bleary-eyed election watchers guzzled coffee and stayed glued to big-screen TV sets as all-night election party stretched past sunrise.

"I'm really glad all this is coming to an end. I just want it to be over," said Jake Tyshow, a 29-year-old corporate lawyer from Maple Grove, Minn., wearing a

Bush-Cheney baseball cap in a room full of Kerry supporters.

Tyshow burst into applause as Bush won Florida. He was the only one clapping.

"This is what it's like to be a Bush supporter in France," he said.

Later, a group of Kerry supporters staggered out onto the Champs-Élysées looking lost.

"It's been quite a depressing evening," 29-year-old Texan Bradley Peitchek said.

At downtown Berlin's Potsdamer Platz, where a few hundred people gathered to watch election coverage on the big screen at a multiplex, Robert Furlong, 36, of Boston, said Bush gave America a bad image.

"These days, you spend a lot of time defending and explaining yourself in Germany," he said.



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Above: Supporters of Sen. John Kerry and Sen. John Edwards watch the polling results at the election night party at the Amerika Haus in Frankfurt, Germany. Hundreds of Germans and Americans and other internationalists turned out to watch election coverage on television. Right: Spc. Daryl Stoneman, walking at far right, of Company A, 32nd Signal Battalion, walks past the chalk "Stop Bush!" sign with some friends outside of Kelley Barracks at lunchtime. Stoneman spit on the sign while walking past it. He voted for Bush and said he's happy Bush is going to remain president.



JESSICA INIGO/Stars and Stripes

Reaction: Troops ready to move past election

REACTION, FROM PAGE 5

TVs around Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy, ran non-stop election coverage as people ate. Most people seemed to ignore the sets, saying they were getting all the election news they could handle in their offices.

When White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card said that Bush would take Ohio and declared an election victory, it brought cheers from those assembled at re-election headquarters, but didn't elicit a peep from the handful of lunchtime slot-machine players in the Naples base club, unless one counted more coins being dropped into the machines.

Lt. j.g. Martin Kelly of the 6th Fleet staff just wanted the election to be over so that he could stop arguing with his parents.

"I'm strong one way and they're strong for the other," he said over lunch at the Naval Support Activity Naples Cio Hall. "My family hates the Heinz family and Kerry."

"I think that we can now move on," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Monte Blome, who had requested a ballot from his home state of South Dakota, but didn't receive it before Election Day. "I would have voted for Bush, though."

Both Blome and Kelly agreed that it isn't just the Americans watching this election. "I think the world sees [this election] as very important," Blome, also of the 6th Fleet staff, said. "We're seen as the last great superpower in the world and we affect the rest of the world in a lot of ways."

"The world sees the values of the American people by who gets elected," said Kelly, an Atlanta native.

During lunchtime in Darmstadt, Germany, troops rushed in and out of Kelley Barracks, where someone had written "Stop Bush!" with chalk on the sidewalk just outside the back gate.

Regardless of what the ground declared, troops said they thought Bush would win.

"I look forward to pay raises. That's one thing he's given us: money," said Spc. Richard Swinimer, of the 22nd Signal Brigade. He chose not to vote because he said neither candidate appealed to him.

"I don't necessarily agree with the war in Iraq and I'm concerned about some of Bush's policies," said Spc. Brandon Doyle, of the 105th Military Intelligence Battalion, who voted, but wouldn't say who he voted for.

Spc. Katherine Freasier said she voted for Kerry, but that she wasn't holding her breath waiting for him to be announced the next president.

Later in the lunch hour, Staff Sgt. Daryl Hurey, of Company A, 32nd Signal Battalion, asked, "Haven't you heard the latest?"

He said news reports announced the Bush camp certain of a win. He voted for Kerry, but he wasn't too disappointed in the news.

"He's got it wrapped up," Hurey said. "I work for him and I'm going to keep work-

ing for him. Plus, he didn't do too bad with the military. He might not have taken care of the economy so well, but he's good with the troops and military families."

Other troops were more emphatic about their choice.

"I don't like hippies and I think Kerry's a hippie," said Spc. Daryl Stoneman, of Company A, 32nd Signal Battalion, who took a second to spit on the "Stop Bush!" sign. He said he thought Kerry was just piggybacking off Bush's platform during the debates.

First-time voter Petty Officer 3rd Class Justin Barlock of Naples Security took a more personal reason for wanting the election to be over.

"If I get us out of [force protection condition] Charlie," he said, waiting for his turn to play air hockey in the single sailor lounge.

Stripes reporters Michael Abrams, Rick Emert, Jessica Inigo and Jon Anderson contributed to this story.

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ELECTION 2004

Neither party gains in gubernatorial races

BY SHARON COHEN

The Associated Press

Republicans scored two big wins in governors' races in the Midwest, recapturing seats in Indiana and Missouri. But the GOP gains were offset by Democratic victories in New Hampshire and Montana in an election where neither party dominated statewide contests.

In Washington state, the candidates were running neck-in-neck with mail-in ballots potentially delaying the final result for days.

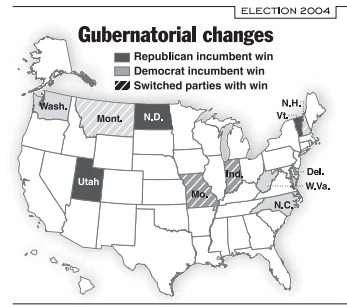
Among 11 states that chose their governors Tuesday, two in America's heartland saw a turnover to the GOP in their executive mansions. Both were places where President Bush posted solid victories.

In Indiana, Mitch Daniels, former White House budget director under Bush, won easily and gave the GOP control of the governor's seat for the first time since a Democrat took office in 1989. He defeated Joe Kernan, who took over last year after the death of Gov. Frank O'Bannon.

In Missouri, Matt Blunt, the Republican secretary of state and son of Rep. Roy Blunt, edged out Claire McCaskill, the Democratic state auditor. His win gives the state GOP full control of the Capitol for the first time in four generations.

But those Republican wins were balanced by Democratic gains: In New Hampshire, John Lynch ousted GOP incumbent Craig Benson, accused of running a corrupt administration. State officials said it was the first time since 1926 that a freshman governor was denied a second term.

And in Montana, another bit of



history was written as Democrat Brian Schweitzer, a farmer-rancher, rolled by Bob Brown, the Republican secretary of state.

"It's a new day in Montana," Schweitzer said Tuesday night as he celebrated the victory that returns the office to Democrats for the first time in 16 years.

The GOP still could pick up a governorship previously held by Democrats in Washington state. In that contest, Republican Dino Rossi and Democrat Christine Gregoire were separated by a few thousand votes and absentee and provisional ballots could delay the final tally for weeks.

Washington — along with Montana and West Virginia — were

states where governors chose not to seek re-election. In two other states — Utah and Missouri — incumbents were ousted by their own parties during the primaries.

In several open seats, the races were marked by record spending and unprecedented bursts of out-of-state money. But local issues, including taxes, economic development and transportation, also were factors in gubernatorial races.

In six other states, incumbents won or the party kept control of the executive mansions.

In Delaware, Gov. Ruth Ann Minner, a 30-year veteran of political contests, squeaked by GOP challenger Bill Lee, a retired



Republican candidate for governor of Indiana Mitch Daniels talks to supporters during a victory rally Tuesday in Indianapolis. Daniels defeated incumbent Democratic Gov. Joe Kernan.

judge, to win a second term.

North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley won a second term over Republican Patrick Ballantyne in a state that has suffered job losses in the textile and furniture industry.

On the GOP side, two incumbents also won. In Vermont, Jim Douglas crushed Democrat Peter Duggan, the Burlington mayor. And in North Dakota, John Hoeven breezed to a second term over former Democratic state Sen. Joe

Satrom, who had argued the incumbent was ineffective.

In the remaining open seats, the Republicans maintained control in Utah, where Jon Huntsman Jr., heir to his father's chemical fortune, capitalized on the state's overwhelming GOP base to defeat Democrat Scott Matheson Jr.

And in West Virginia, Democrat Joe Manchin, the secretary of state, beat Republican Monty Warner.

This time, the voting process seemed to work

Only minor voting glitches reported

BY DEBORAH HASTINGS

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The big surprise of the 2004 U.S. election: For the most part, the voting went smoothly.

By the close of polls across the United States, despite heavy turnout and hints of a vote-counting saga dead ahead, there were only scattered reports of equipment trouble and human error at the voting stations. And none was major.

Educated and dedicated voters deserve most of the credit, said Doug Chapin, director of the non-partisan Election Reform Information Project.

"At the end of the day it came down to the voters, and they stood in the lines, they asked questions, they went to court," Chapin said. "And voters came through in a way that even the most optimistic of us hadn't expected."

After the disaster of 2000, when recounting stretched for several weeks and the question of how long it should continue ended up with the U.S. Supreme Court, pessimism has been in large supply.

"We heard stories of isolated incidents, but no major problems,"

said California Secretary of State Kevin Shelley, where all 55 electoral votes — the most of any state — went to Democrat John Kerry.

"While long lines may have frustrated voters, it's a wonderful, positive reflection on our democracy," Shelley said late Tuesday.

In Ohio, after a voter filed suit on behalf of voters who didn't receive absentee ballots on time, all were allowed to cast provisional ballots. Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell said early Wednesday that the number of provisional ballots in the state could be as high as 250,000. Provisional ballots are new to this election. Any voter whose name does not appear on precinct rolls is entitled to cast a provisional — or paper — ballot. But elections officials must individually certify them as being cast by registered voters before they can be counted.

About half of all voters said they were very confident their ballots would be accurately counted, according to a national Associated Press exit poll conducted by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International.

Extreme vigilance by election officials caused unfounded com-



First-time voter Natalia Agudelo, 20, left, gets some help from attorney Pam Kearse, a member of the Volunteer Lawyers for Kerry/Edwards, outside a polling precinct Tuesday in Hollywood, Fla.

plaints and poll closures, including a suspicious substance in Mount Laurel, N.J., later determined to be spilled salt.

Long after poll-closing time, voters in some states still were waiting in long lines. In Ohio, the

wait was as long as seven hours. In Connecticut, some got restless.

"They were getting a little rowdy," said Bridgeport Sgt. Nick Meriano. "It's under control now. People were in line a couple hours."

Hundreds complained about touch-screen voting machines, which computer scientists say are prone to malfunction and hacking. They were used in 29 states and the District of Columbia.

E-voting appeared to take its worst hit in New Orleans, where precinct workers were forced to tell voters to come back because of problems including machines that did not boot up properly.

"New Orleans was the award for the worst voting situation in the country when it comes from electronic voting machines," said Cindy Cohn, legal director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

Florida had a few problems of its own in that area. In the state that gave the 2000 election to President Bush on the basis of 537 votes, 10 touch-screen voting machines failed at various precincts in Broward County.

Common Cause reported more than 175,000 calls to its national voting hot line. The citizens' lobby group said extremely high voter turnout caused complaints of ballot shortages and overwhelmed polling officials.

"They were getting a little rowdy," said Bridgeport Sgt. Nick Meriano. "It's under control now. People were in line a couple hours."

ELECTION 2004

Incumbents ride in Senate

By LARRY MARGASAK

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans toppled Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, winning their biggest Senate prize after sweeping through the South to enlarge the GOP majority.

Republicans were assured of 53 Senate seats after winning races Tuesday in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Louisiana — where the GOP won its first seat since Reconstruction.

Unceded races in Florida and Alaska will determine the final shape of victory for Republicans, who currently have a 51-48 margin, plus a Democratic-leaning independent.

Democrats had a nearly insurmountable hurdle to take control of the Senate, since most of the competitive races were in states where President Bush was strong. Several Democrats all but ran as independents in futile efforts to squeak through.

The stronger Republican Senate likely will mean more votes to confirm nominees to take control of the Senate, since most of the competitive races were in states where President Bush was strong. Several Democrats all but ran as independents in futile efforts to squeak through.

In the South, Republican Rep. John Inouye of Hawaii, who was born in Hawaii, was expected to be re-elected. In Georgia, Rep. Jim DeMint in South Carolina and Richard Burr in

North Carolina won more competitive races.

In Louisiana, Rep. David Vitter won an outright majority of more than 51 percent and avoided the runoff that under state law would have taken place Dec. 4 if he had not topped 50 percent.

Democrats had reason to cheer in Illinois, where State Sen. Barack Obama easily won back a Republican seat.

The Democrats also will have the first Hispanic senator in more than a quarter century. Ken Salazar was narrowly elected in Colorado over Republican her executive Pete Coors in a seat to replace the retiring Republican Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell.

Republicans who won new terms included Sens. Richard Shelby of Alabama, Kit Bond of Missouri, Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, George Voinovich of Ohio, Sam Brownback of Kansas, Robert Bennett of Utah, Charles Grassley of Iowa, Mike Crapo of Idaho, John McCain of Arizona and Specter.

Among Democratic incumbents, Sens. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, Barbara Mikulski of Maryland, Evan Bayh of Indiana, Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas, Byron Dorgan of North Dakota, Russell Feingold of Wisconsin, Charles Schumer of New York, Harry Reid of Nevada, Patty Murray of Washington and Max Baucus of Montana. Boxer of California, Ron Wyden of Oregon and Daniel Inouye of Hawaii won new terms.

By CHRISTOPHER WILLS

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Barack Obama's overwhelming victory in Illinois will make him only the fifth black U.S. senator in history — and one of the nation's brightest political stars.

Now comes the hard part.

The Chicago Democrat must live up to the huge expectations his candidacy has aroused and prove he can command attention in Washington.

"We have to remind ourselves that this is really the end of the beginning. This is not the end itself," Obama said in his victory speech Tuesday night. He won by 72 percentage points, collecting more votes than any Illinois politician in history.

"In the ultimate equation, we will not be measured by the margin of our victory, but we will be measured by whether we are able to deliver concrete improvements

to the lives of so many people all across the state who are struggling," Obama said.

Obama's opponent, Republican Alan Keyes, didn't concede the race. Instead, he delivered a combative speech in which he vowed to battle the political corruption that he says plagues Illinois.

But Obama's victory was undeniable. With 96 percent of precincts reporting, Obama won 70 percent, or 3,385,229 votes, and Keyes had 27 percent, or 1,301,719 votes, in unofficial returns. Two third-party candidates split the rest of the vote.

Obama's total was the largest in Illinois history, topping the 3 million collected by Republican Gov. James R. Thompson in 1976. His margin of victory, 2 million votes, broke the record of 1.574 million set by Republican Jim Edgar in the 1986 secretary of state race.

"I think what we showed is that all of us can disagree without

being disagreeable, that we can set aside the scorched-earth politics, the scorched-earth politics of the past," Obama said.

With 20 black candidates — a first in U.S. Senate history — the race guaranteed the election of only the fifth black senator. The last was Democrat Carol Moseley Braun, who lost her re-election bid to Fitzgerald in 1998.

Obama enters the Senate already boasting a national reputation and a list of politicians grateful for his help.

But the man Obama replaces, Republican Sen. Peter Fitzgerald, cautioned that Obama's high profile might work against him, especially among those thinking of future presidential campaigns.

"Some of his colleagues in the Senate may see him as competition," Fitzgerald said. "Some people will be grateful and will return the favor, but others... may be secretly trying to undermine him."

White House helped topple Daschle

The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — Sen. Tom Daschle added a dubious distinction to his long political career — he became the first Senate party leader in more than 50 years to be voted out of office. And the White House couldn't be happier.

With all of the state's precincts reporting, Daschle had 193,279 votes, or 49 percent, while the Republican challenger, former Rep. John Thune, got 197,814 votes, or 51 percent.

The GOP had targeted Daschle, the Senate minority leader, claiming he had been the chief obstructionist to President Bush on such issues as tax cuts, judicial nominees and the war in Iraq.

For example, he angered Republicans and unseated a few Democrats when, with the nation on the brink of war with Iraq, he said he was "sadd-

ened that this president failed so miserably at diplomacy that we're now forced to war."

Daschle later said he regretted that comment. He also expressed strong support for U.S. troops in Iraq.

Thune, 43, also argued that Daschle had lost touch with South Dakota voters, particularly on social issues such as abortion and gay marriage.

Daschle lost his seat after a bruising, \$26 million contest. He and Thune spent more than \$30 apiece on each of the state's 502,000 registered voters, as of mid-October. That does not include the millions of dollars being spent by outside groups, most of them opposed to Daschle.



Daschle

Republicans extend their control of U.S. Senate

By ALAN FRAM

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans extended their decade-long hold on the House for another two years and were on their way to slightly expanding their majority, knocking off four veteran Texas Democrats along the way.

Among their few setbacks was the defeat of the longest serving GOP member of the chamber, Rep. Phil Crane of Illinois. In a familiar pattern, 98 percent of incumbents seeking re-election prevailed or were leading.

Republicans' voting left Republicans ready to control the House for a dozen consecutive years, the first time they have achieved that feat since the 12 years that ended in January 1993. With the GOP also renewing its command of the Senate, the party was assured of reigning over Congress, though with narrow majorities that should allow Democrats to slow and even derail some Republican initiatives.

GOP leaders were jubilant. The two chambers' leaders, House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., and Senate Majority Leader Bill

Frist, R-Tenn., were already planning their agenda.

"One of the first things that Senator Frist and I want to do... is make sure that we can continue to supply better health care for the American people," Hastert said. "Take care of those people who don't have it. Also work and make sure that we take care of our men and women who are fighting overseas and to make this country even stronger against terrorist attacks."

By early Wednesday morning in the East, Republicans had won 228 seats and were leading in five others, which could give them at least 233 seats. That would be an effective four-seat gain for the GOP. Democrats had 199 seats and led in two.

There are 435 seats in the House, with 218 needed for majority control.

Republicans held a 227-205 advantage over Democrats in the outgoing House, plus two vacant seats formerly held by Republicans who have retired and one independent who sides with Democrats.

The failure of either party to make dramatic House gains underscored that the national debates over Iraq and the economy provided no decisive help to either side.

Months after Texas' dominant state Republicans redrew congressional district lines to the GOP's advantage, the fiercely disputed plan bore fruit and fueled the party's ability to hold its House majority. Among its chief architects were House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, himself easily re-elected.

Texas Democrat Reps. Charles Stenholm, a leading fiscal conservative and power on the Agriculture Committee, and Martin Frost, a one-time member of his party's leadership, were both defeated, as were Reps. Max Baucus and Nick LaLota. The four had a total of 68 years of House experience.

Nick Clooney, former Cincinnati television anchor and father of actor George Clooney, lost his attempt to hold an open northeastern Kentucky seat for Democrats.

He was beaten by GOP businessman Geoff Davis.

Democrats fared better in the well-to-do suburbs north of Chicago, where they defeated Crane, whose 35-year House career was the longest among the chamber's Republicans. The victor was Melvin Carter, who was born several years before Crane entered the House and characterized him as out of touch with his district.

They picked up a western Colorado seat vacated by a retiring Republican, Democrat John Salazar was heading to Washington with younger brother Ken, who was elected to the Senate.

Democrats also fought freshman GOP Rep. Max Burns, a top target of theirs, to battle for re-election from a Democratic-leaning east Georgia district. Republican Nancy Naples was trailing in her attempt to hold an open seat for her party in a district around Buffalo, N.Y., and Democrats retained seats that Republicans fought hard for in South Dakota, Missouri and Oregon.

In Connecticut, the GOP overcame Democratic efforts to tie some Republican incumbents to

President Bush, whose popularity is low there. Maverick GOP Rep. Christopher Shays and former CIA agent Rep. Bob Stump were ousted after Democratic rivals.

A pair of Louisiana seats will be decided in Dec. 4 run-offs, with one seat expected to hold onto one.

Frost's bitter race against GOP Rep. Pete Sessions was the country's most expensive, the pair raised \$8.4 million by late October, split almost equally. Stenholm was defeated by freshman Rep. Louie Gohmert in a district in which two-thirds of the voters were new to Stenholm.

Only one Texas Democrat threatened by redistricting was able to survive: Rep. Chet Edwards, despite the influence of one of his Crawford, Texas, constituents, President Bush.

Nearly all incumbents from coast to coast sailed to re-election, including former presidential hopeful Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio.

Also returned for a second House term was Rep. Katherine Harris, R-Fla., who was her state's secretary of state during the pivotal Florida recount during the 2000 presidential election.

ELECTION 2004

Calif. OKs stem cell money; mixed pot returns

BY DAVID CRARY
The Associated Press

Californians voted Tuesday to spend \$3 billion on stem cell research, putting the state on the cutting edge of a field questioned by conservatives and the Bush administration. Arizona's approved a crackdown on illegal immigrants, and 11 states based on same-sex marriage.

Elsewhere, Montana became the 10th state to legalize marijuana for medical purposes, but Alaskans defeated a more ambitious proposal to decriminalize pot altogether. In Oregon, voters rejected a measure that would have dramatically expanded its existing medical marijuana program.

Federal drug czar John Walters was heartened by the outcome in Alaska.

"This public health victory reaffirms the simple, inescapable fact that no family, no community, no state is better off with more drug use," he said.

In all, 163 measures were on the ballots in 34 states. Backers of California Proposition 71, which will support human embryonic stem cell research, said the measure was needed because the Bush administration has restricted funding to about \$25 million a year. The campaign became a battle of Hollywood stars after actor-turned-governor Arnold



Robert Klein, chairman of YES on Proposition 71, the stem cell research initiative, celebrates with Tessa Wick, left, and her mother, Lucy Fisher, in Los Angeles on Tuesday. Proposition 71 will create a new state medical research institute that will give out grants and loans for stem cell research in California.

Schwarzenegger broke Republican ranks to line up in support with late "Superman" actor Christopher Reeve and "Family Ties" actor Michael J. Fox.

Actor and director Mel Gibson

was among high-profile foes of the measure.

The Arizona immigration initiative — the first of its kind in the nation — was touted by supporters as a way to curtail fraud by requiring

people to produce proof of immigration status when obtaining certain government services. It would punish state workers who looked the other way, and require proof of citizenship to register to vote.

Arizona is the busiest illegal entry point on the U.S.-Mexico border, and spends millions annually to provide food stamps, welfare and other social services to illegal immigrants.

Floridians and Nevadans voted to raise their states' minimum wage to \$6.15 an hour, a dollar higher than the federal minimum wage. The new Nevada wage will apply only to employers who do not offer health insurance.

Florida voters also approved a measure limiting the privacy rights of girls seeking abortions, meaning the Legislature can now pass a law requiring parents to be notified. Lawmakers had been stymied in efforts to pass such a law by court rulings that say they violated the privacy provision of the state constitution.

Colorado defeated a measure which would have allocated its electoral votes proportionally, based on the popular vote for president, and would have applied to this year's race.

Voters in Maine and South Dakota both declined opportunities to lower taxes. South Dakotans defeated a bid to scrap the sales tax on groceries, while a measure to cap property taxes lost in Maine after opponents said it would force

layoffs of teachers and firefighters.

In Washington, voters rejected a penny-on-the-dollar sales-tax increase to raise money for education, turning down a well-financed appeal for greater investment in the state's young people.

Voters in Colorado, Oklahoma and Montana approved hikes in tobacco taxes, with most of the new revenue earmarked for health care. In Alaska and Maine, voters defeated proposals to ban the use of bait while hunting bears.

Oklahoma voters approved a state lottery, leaving only nine states without one.

In Florida, doctors prevailed with an amendment limiting the percentage of malpractice awards that lawyers can claim. But attorneys won amendments to give the public more information about doctors' mistakes and to take away the licenses of doctors who make several medical errors.

In Wyoming, voters rejected a proposed amendment that would have let lawmakers consider limiting jury awards for pain and suffering, while Nevada voters approved a physician-backed initiative that would impose a \$350,000 cap on non-economic damages in malpractice cases.

Californians turned aside a proposition that would have weakened the state's three-strikes law by allowing 25 years-to-life sentences only if third-time felons were convicted of a serious or violent crime.

Same-sex marriage ban amendments pass in 11 states

BY LARRY MCSHANE
The Associated Press

Gay rights activists received a rebuke from the Deep South to North Dakota as voters in 11 states approved constitutional amendments to ban same-sex marriage in a clean sweep for proponents of traditional one-man, one-woman unions.

"The results just go to show that the citizens — clearly understanding the value of natural marriage," said Christina Rondeau, director of the North Dakota Family Alliance, a group that supported the amendment.

The margin Tuesday in North Dakota was 3-1 in favor — the same as in Georgia and Kentucky as the proposal passed in all 11 states where it was on the ballot. The margin was 6-1 in Mississippi, where the amendment was also approved in Arkansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, Ohio, Oklahoma and Utah.

The issue was put on the ballot in six states through petition drives waged by conservative, church-backed citizens groups. But support of the amendment appeared widespread; in Ohio, it received equal support from men and women, blacks and whites.

Gay-rights activists quickly raised the possibility of court challenges in Georgia and Mississippi, although supporters predicted the new laws would hold up.

"Will there be a challenge? Prob-



Same-sex couple Taylor West, left, and Ann Hubbard react to early results on Measure 36 on Tuesday in Portland, Ore. The Portland couple were married in Oregon March 4 after being together for 15 years. But Oregonians appeared to be leaning toward approving a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage on Tuesday, disappointing gay rights groups that had pinned their hopes on the state.

ably, probably," said Monte Stevart of the pro-amendment "Yes on Three Coalition" in Utah. "Will it succeed? No."

The most disappointing outcome for gay activists was in Oregon, where supporters of same-sex marriage felt they had the best chance of success.

For gay rights groups, the one-sided results, while disheartening, were optimistically seen as just one strike in an ongoing fight.

The votes will become "a blip in

the longer term historic view," said Karl Olson, executive director of the gay-rights group PRIDE in Montana. "Our constitution isn't going to be able to sustain this kind of restriction on civil rights."

The proposed amendments in Mississippi, Montana and Oregon referred only to marriage, specifying that it should be limited to unions of one man and one woman. The measures in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma

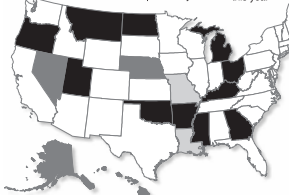
ELECTION 2004

Same-sex marriage bans approved

Eleven states approved amendments on their Nov. 2 ballots prohibiting same-sex marriage. Same-sex marriage was not legal in the states where the issue was on the ballot, but amendment supporters wanted to guard against future court rulings.

State constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage

■ Voted to enact Nov. 2 ■ Adopted in previous years ■ Adopted this year



and Utah called for a ban on civil unions as well.

Earlier this year, voters in Missouri and Louisiana came out in favor of gay marriage ban amendments. Louisiana's amendment was later struck down in state court on the grounds that it improperly dealt with more than one subject by banning not only

same-sex marriage but also any legal recognition of common-law relationships, domestic partnerships and civil unions.

Gay-rights activists intend to press marriage-rights lawsuits in states like California and New Jersey, where they believe the high courts might eventually rule in their favor.

ELECTION 2004

State-by-state roundup of contests

A nine-page wrap-up of key races and results across the nation



The following is a state-by-state wrap-up of key races in the Northeast. The states included in this region are: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont.

The Associated Press

CONNECTICUT

PRESIDENT (7) — Kerry by nearly 10 percentage points.

SENATE — Democrat incumbent Chris Dodd skated past GOP challenger Jack Orchulli.

HOUSE — Remains 3R, 2D. Two Republican incumbents, Chris Shays and Rob Simmons, beat out challengers Diane Farrell and Jim Sullivan.

EXIT POLL — More than half of voters said they opposed the Iraq war, and nine in 10 of those voted for Kerry.

DELAWARE

PRESIDENT (3) — Kerry won as many voters cast ballots in opposition to Bush rather than supporting the Massachusetts senator.

GOVERNOR — Incumbent Ruth Ann Minner won a second term against Republican Bill Lee after last-minute blitz of negative campaign ads.

HOUSE — 1R, Republican

Michael Castle coasted to success with support from Democrats and unaffiliated voters.

EXIT POLL — Kerry got a boost from voters who said they were casting ballots against Bush.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

PRESIDENT (3) — No surprise here: Kerry won handily in a city as Democratic as Wyoming is Republican.

HOUSE — Remains 1D, Eleanor Holmes Norton, a Democrat, captured an eighth term as shadow delegate who can vote in committee but not on the House floor. Norton has been a big proponent of D.C. statehood.

OTHER — Former Mayor Marion Barry resuscitated his political career yet again, winning a seat to city council. Barry was once caught smoking crack on an FBI videotape.

EXIT POLL — Seven of 10 voters said they were worried about another terrorist attack in the U.S. Nine of 10 voters cast ballots for Kerry.



Former Washington Mayor Marion Barry takes a call on his cell phone Tuesday night. Barry, who was once videotaped by the FBI smoking crack and spent time in jail, resurrected his political career Tuesday when residents of one of the District of Columbia's poorest sections picked Barry to be their new councilman.



Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., left, gives his acceptance speech as longtime supporter Frank DiPaolo cheers him on during a celebration in Johnston on Tuesday night. Kennedy beat Republican opponent Dave Rogers for his sixth term representing a state that voted overwhelmingly Democratic.

AP photos

MAINE

PRESIDENT (4) — Kerry defeated Bush, ending speculation the president could pick off one electoral vote in the north. The state allows votes to be split by congressional district.

HOUSE — Remains 2D. A day for incumbents: In the 1st District, Democratic Rep. Tom Allen beat GOP challenger Charlie Summers. In the 2nd, freshman Democratic Rep. Michael Michaud defeated Brian Hamel.

PROPOSITIONS — Maineres rejected an initiative to cap property taxes at 1 percent of assessed value. Sportsmen led a successful campaign to defeat a ban on using bait, hounds and traps to hunt bears.

EXIT POLL — Voters surveyed listed Iraq as their top issue and expressed a need for change. Maineres were divided on whether the country's safer from terrorism.

MARYLAND

PRESIDENT (10) — With a double-digit lead in a Democratic safe state, Kerry breezed to victory.

SENATE — Democratic Sen. Barbara Mikulski easily survived challenge from millionaire state Sen. E.J. Pipkin, then celebrated by saying, "We are a blue state. We are neon blue. We are cobalt blue. We are blue in the face."

HOUSE — 6D, 2R. Rep. Steny Hoyer, No. 2 ranking Democrat in the House, and seven other incumbents coasted. None dipped below 60 percent of the vote.

EXIT POLL — About three-quarters of voters who said they were financially better off than they were four years ago cast ballots for Bush. Those worse off tended to vote for Kerry.

MASSACHUSETTS

PRESIDENT (12) — Kerry easily captured his home state, winning by a wide margin.

HOUSE — 10D. Voters re-

turned all Democratic incumbents to Capitol Hill, including Rep. James McGovern, who defeated a GOP leader of the anti-gay marriage movement in Massachusetts.

LEGISLATURE — Republicans lost three legislative seats in the most fiercely contested elections in a decade.

EXIT POLL — Six of 10 voters disapproved of the president's decision to go to war in Iraq; those voters overwhelmingly supported Kerry.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

PRESIDENT (4) — Kerry became the first Democrat since Woodrow Wilson in 1912 to beat a sitting Republican president in New Hampshire. Four college towns accounted for about 80 per-

cent of Kerry's narrow margin statewide.

SENATE — GOP Sen. Judd Gregg won 2 to 1 against 94-year-old Doris "Granny D" Haddock, scrappy but underfunded advocate for campaign-finance reform.

GOVERNOR — Democrats bucked the historical trend again as John Lynch denied an incumbent governor a second term for the first time since 1926. He unseated Republican Craig Benson after attacking him during the campaign as a failed business leader.

HOUSE — Remains 2R. Five-term GOP Rep. Charles Bass breezed past Democrat Paul Hodes, coming close even in Hodes' hometown of Concord.

EXIT POLL — Anger over the war in Iraq turned the vote for Kerry.



U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., hugs his mother, Selma Schumer, during his victory party in New York on Tuesday. The senator easily defeated Republican Howard Mills and Conservative Marilyn O'Grady in his bid for a second term.

ELECTION 2004



AP photos

U.S. Rep. Rob Simmons, R-Conn., waves his sport jacket following his victory over Democratic nominee Jim Sullivan in Mystic, Conn. Simmons won his second term as representative of Connecticut's 2nd District.

NEW JERSEY

PRESIDENT (15) — What close race? Kerry wins state decisively.

HOUSE — Remains 7D, 6R. Republican Rep. Mike Ferguson gets third term in 7th District, defeating former Marine Steve Brozak, despite Brozak's high profile gained by speaking slot at the Democratic National Convention and prominent boosters such as former New Jersey U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley.

PROPOSITIONS — Residents upset about high property taxes in towns of Verona and Cedar Grove voted to secede from Essex County. Such a move requires approval by the state Legislature, which even township officials say is extremely unlikely.

EXIT POLL — Opposition to the Iraq war, and dismay over its course, key to Kerry win.

NEW YORK

PRESIDENT (31) — Kerry prevailed in state that has five Democraticans for every three Republicans.

SENATE — Democrat Charles Schumer, with \$26 million war chest, easily triumphed over Republican Howard Mills and Conservative Marilyn O'Grady in bid for second term.

HOUSE — 19D, 10R. Two Republicans — Jack Quinn and Amo Houghton — retired, and Democrat Brian Higgins and Republican Nancy Naples duelled for Quinn's seat, though the race was too close to declare a winner Wednesday.

EXIT POLL — Roman Catholics, a group that made up two-fifths of the voters in New York, split evenly between Bush and Kerry, and white Catholics supported Bush three to two. Eight in 10 Jewish voters chose Kerry.

PENNSYLVANIA

PRESIDENT (21) — Kerry took the Keystone State by 2 percentage points, Al Gore took the state by 4.2 points in 2000.

SENATE — Moderate Republican Sen. Arlen Specter defeated

Democratic Rep. Joe Hoeffel to secure a fifth term; he's likely to chair Senate Judiciary Committee, with authority to help reshape Supreme Court as justices retire.

HOUSE — Remains 12R, 7D. Republican freshman Rep. Jim Gerlach and Democrat Lois Murphy were deadlocked; incumbent parties held onto remaining seats, including the one Hoeffel left to run for Senate.

OTHER — State Auditor General Robert P. Casey Jr., son of the late former governor, was elected treasurer while eyeing a second run for governor — possibly in 2010.

EXIT POLL — Fence-sitters who made up their mind in the last month favored Kerry by a sizable margin.

RHODE ISLAND

PRESIDENT (4) — Kerry, strongly.

HOUSE — Remains 2D. Voters overwhelmingly sent Democratic Reps. Patrick Kennedy and Jim Langevin to subsequent terms in Washington. Kennedy was elected to a sixth term; Langevin a third.



Republican Gov. James Douglas kisses his wife, Dorothy, to celebrate his victory in Montpelier, Vt. Douglas defeated Democratic challenger Peter Clavelle, mayor of Burlington.

PROPOSITIONS — Ballot measure to authorize a constitutional convention was defeated.

EXIT POLL — About seven in 10 voters said they made up their minds more than a month ago about which candidate to choose for president.

VERMONT

PRESIDENT (3) — Kerry an easy victor in a state that has backed Democrats by no fewer than 10 points in past three elections.

SENATE — Democrat Patrick Leahy, 30-year Senate veteran, sailed to victory over challenger Jack McMullen.

GOVERNOR — Republican incumbent James Douglas never lost a steady lead over Democrat Peter Clavelle, mayor of Burlington.

HOUSE — Remains 1 Ind. Rep. Bernie Sanders, House's only independent, won easy re-election.

EXIT POLL — First state with same-sex civil unions is getting to like them. State was split in 2000; now less than a quarter opposed and nearly half support same-sex marriage.

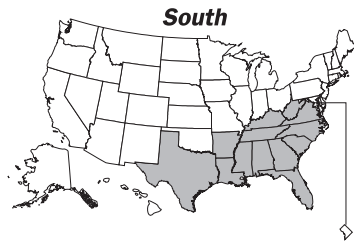


Delaware Gov. Ruth Ann Minner, a Democrat, beat opponent Bill Lee after a last-minute blitz of negative campaign ads.



Supporters greet U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., and his wife, Joan, at his election-night headquarters in Philadelphia. Specter defeated Democratic challenger Rep. Joe Hoeffel.

ELECTION 2004



The states included in this region are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

ALABAMA

PRESIDENT (9) — Bush won by 26 percentage points, despite Democrats' bid to rally voters for Kerry.

SENATE — GOP Sen. Richard Shelby easily claimed a fourth term, marking his 10th straight election to congressional or state office in three decades.

HOUSE — Current: SR, 2D, All incumbents won, including first-term Republican Rep. Mike Rogers, who sought re-election in a district Democrats had hoped to capture.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters were divided over a measure to repeal segregation-era language from the state constitution. The measure, which remained undecided early Wednesday, drew criticism from opponents who claimed it could trigger a court order to increase public school funding, raising a potential tax increase.

EXIT POLL — Bush won in every age range, including 18-to-24-year-old voters and more than two-thirds of those over 65.

ARKANSAS

PRESIDENT (6) — Bush benefited from heavy conservative turnout for anti-gay marriage amendment, winning by larger margin than his 2000 victory over Al Gore.



Senatorial candidate Rep. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., center, reacts with Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., right, and Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue as he speaks during an election night rally Tuesday in Atlanta. Isakson defeated Rep. Denise Majette, D-Ga., for the U.S. Senate.

SENATE — Blanche Lincoln won second term, easily surviving bid by state Sen. Jim Holt, who called liberal federal judges a greater threat to the nation than terrorists.

HOUSE — Remains 3D, 1R. Incumbents coasted.

PROPOSITIONS — Anti-gay marriage approved by 3-1 margin. Voters also gave Legislature permission to OK incentives for large businesses wanting to invest in state.

EXIT POLL — Voters who believe the nation is safer from terrorism now than in 2000 went for Bush by a 9-1 margin.

FLORIDA

PRESIDENT (27) — President Bush claimed victory in the nation's top battleground state, four years after it took a 36-day recount and U.S. Supreme Court decision to settle the battle of Florida.

SENATE — Republican Mel Martinez defeated Democrat Betty Castor in a tight race to succeed retiring Democratic Sen. Bob Graham. Castor conceded Wednesday morning. Martinez would be state's first Hispanic senator. Castor its second female senator.

HOUSE — 18R, 7D. Republican Rep. Katherine Harris, vilified by Democrats while she served as secretary of state during 2000 recount, won in rematch with Sarasota attorney Jan Schneider.



Kentucky Democratic Senate candidate Daniel Mongiardo holds his niece Anika Thacker while shaking the hands of supporters after giving his concession speech at a hotel in downtown Lexington, Tuesday. Incumbent Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., won a narrow victory over Mongiardo.

Republican Connie Mack IV, son of the ex-senator, took seat given up by new CIA director Porter Goss.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters approved a \$1-an-hour hike in the state minimum wage and approved an initiative to limit privacy rights of girls under age 18, so that law could be changed to require parental notice if minors seek abortions.

EXIT POLL — Nearly eight in 10 voters picked their candidate more than a month ago. Kerry got a strong majority from people who made up their minds over the last month.

GEORGIA

PRESIDENT (15) — Bush triumphed his 2000 margin of victory, getting 59 percent of the vote this time, compared to 55 percent then.

SENATE — "Cream always rises to the top," said retiring Sen. Zell Miller, a maverick Democrat, about his GOP replacement, Rep. Johnny Isakson. Denise Majette was trounced in her bid to become the state's first black senator.

HOUSE — Democratic newcomer John Barrow and Republican freshman Rep. Max Burns remained locked in a race too close to call.

Democrat Jim Marshall easily survived a GOP threat, while Democrat Cynthia McKinney clinched the seat she lost two years ago to Majette.

PROPOSITIONS — Opponents of the state's new constitutional ban on gay marriages vowed to take it to the courts after it passed by more than a 3-to-1 margin.

EXIT POLL — With touch-screen machines in every precinct, nine of 10 voters said they were confident their votes would be accurately counted.

KENTUCKY

PRESIDENT (8) — Bush trounced Kerry, another big Southern loss for the Massachusetts senator.

SENATE — GOP incumbent Jim Bunning won in a squeaker over Daniel Mongiardo, denying the Democrats a potential pickup in the Senate.

Bunning's odd behavior in the campaign's final days made it close.

HOUSE — Current, 4R, 2D; new SR, 1D. Republican businessman Geoff Davis picked up the seat of retiring Democrat Ken Lucas in conservative district. Davis beat Nick Clooney, father of actor George Clooney.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters approved amendment banning gay marriage and civil unions by 3-to-1 margin.

OTHER — Former Gov. Julian Carroll, a Democrat, made a return to politics with a state Senate win over the governor's brother, Republican Harold Fletcher.

EXIT POLL — Nearly three-fourths of voters who described themselves as evangelical or born-again Christians backed Bush, and six in 10 supported Bunning.

LOUISIANA

PRESIDENT (9) — Bush easily took the state that neighbors his native Texas.

SENATE — Rep. David Vitter won a slim majority and barely avoided a runoff, becoming the first Republican from Louisiana to serve in the Senate since Reconstruction.

HOUSE — Remains SR, 2D. Republican Bobby Jindal, who lost the governor's race last year, won to become the first Indian American in Congress. Republican Billy Tauzin III advanced to Dec. 4 runoff for the seat vacated by his father. He'll face Democrat Charlie Melanson.

PROPOSITIONS — Amendment established constitutional right to hunt and fish.

EXIT POLL — Although women nationwide were more likely to vote for Kerry, Bush was the choice of 60 percent of Louisiana's women.

MISSISSIPPI

PRESIDENT (6) — Bush swept in a state that has gone Republican in every presidential election since 1980.

HOUSE — Remains 2R, 2D. All four of Mississippi's incumbent congressmen won re-election, including Democrat Bennie Thompson, who faced a rematch against Republican Clinton LeSeur in a poor, primarily rural District stretching through the Delta.

PROPOSITIONS — A constitutional amendment banning gay marriage passed overwhelmingly; opponents plan a challenge in the courts.

EXIT POLL — Nine of 10 voters supported Bush's handling of the war in Iraq in a state that has 4,000 soldiers who have either served there or are preparing to.



Maria Maniatis of Jacksonville Beach, Fla., keeps her fingers crossed as she watches election returns in the ballroom at the Radisson Hotel in Jacksonville during a Democratic party's election night party on Tuesday.

ELECTION 2004



Louie Gohmert, R-Tyler, addresses supporters Tuesday, in Tyler, Texas, while his wife, Kathy, right, and daughter, Sarah, 15, look on. Gohmert, a former appeals court judge, defeated eight-year incumbent Max Sandlin.

AP photos

NORTH CAROLINA

PRESIDENT (15) — Bush handily wins state traditionally in GOP column.

SENATE — Rep. Richard Burr won John Edwards' old seat, defeating former Clinton aide Erskine Bowles, who became a two-time loser after falling in the 2002 Senate race to Elizabeth Dole.

GOVERNOR — Incumbent Mike Easley won a second term, defeating GOP challenger Patrick Ballantine with a campaign that argued that Easley effectively led the state through tough fiscal times.

HOUSE — Remains 7R, 6D. For the third straight election, no seats changed party hands as Republican Charles Taylor won an eighth term, beating challenger Patsy Keever in western 11th District.

EXIT POLL — Republican appeals to moral and faith issues were effective; one quarter of Bush supporters said religious

faith was their most important presidential quality.

SOUTH CAROLINA

PRESIDENT (8) — Bush rolls with about 58 percent, a margin almost identical to his victory in 2000.

SENATE — Rep. Jim DeMint picked up an extra seat for the Republican Party despite a tough challenge from Democratic state Education Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum. Both hoped to succeed retiring Democratic Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings.

HOUSE — Remains 4R, 2D. Republican Bob Inglis easily recaptured the 4th District seat, which he gave up six years ago. It came open when DeMint began his quest for Senate.

PROPOSITIONS — Ballot question lifting the requirement that bars and restaurants pour drinks from miniature bottles of liquor like those used on airlines was approved by a 3-2 margin.

EXIT POLL — Bush grabbed

support from about 21 percent of minority men but only from about 12 percent of minority women. The state's population is almost 30 percent black.

TENNESSEE

PRESIDENT (11) — Blowout for Bush, who recaptured 2000 rival Al Gore's home state in 14-percent point landslide.

HOUSE — Remains 5D, 4R. All incumbents win another term. Democrat Lincoln Davis had the only serious race — a repeat of his 2002 victory over Tullahoma elderwoman Janice Bowling.

EXIT POLL — A third of Tennessee voters said "moral values" was the most important issue in choosing a president. Of those voters, nine of 10 chose Bush.

TEXAS

PRESIDENT (34) — What'd you expect? Bush, former governor and favorite son of Crawford, claimed state and nation's second-largest trove of electoral votes.

HOUSE — 21R, 11D. After GOP-led redistricting, Chet Edwards was only one of five incumbent Democrats to win competitive races in Republican-tilted districts. Losers were Martin Frost, Max Sandlin, Nick Lampson and Charlie Stenholm.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters in Arlington, home of the Texas Rangers, approved a tax hike to pay half the \$650 million price tag for new Dallas Cowboys stadium.

EXIT POLL — Nearly two-thirds of those surveyed said they supported Bush's decision to invade Iraq. Bush also majority of the Hispanic vote, improving on his mark of four years ago.

VIRGINIA

PRESIDENT (13) — It looked close early on, but Bush picked up the rural vote, allowing Republicans to keep alive their presiden-

crat Jim Moran holds onto seat despite comments perceived as anti-Semite.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters in state hit by Sept. 11 attackers backed constitutional amendment expanding list of successors to governor in event of an emergency.

OTHER — L. Douglas Wilder goes from first black elected governor in country's history to 1992 presidential candidate and now mayor of his hometown, Richmond. He beats the incumbent in a landslide.

EXIT POLL — Veterans in Virginia, home of several major military bases, went strongly for Bush, not the Vietnam-serving Kerry.

WEST VIRGINIA

PRESIDENT (5) — Bush's 12 percentage-point win doubled his winning margin in 2000.

GOVERNOR — Democratic Secretary of State Joe Manchin received 64 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Monty Warner and Mountain Party candidate Jesse Johnson in three-way race. Gov. Bob Wise did not seek re-election.

HOUSE — Remains 2D, 1R. West Virginia's three House members, including lone GOP member Shelley Moore Capito, were re-elected.

PROPOSITIONS — Veterans who served in Kosovo, Afghanistan or Iraq to receive cash bonus.

EXIT POLL — Seven in 10 voters said someone in their household owns a gun, and more than three in five of them voted for Bush.



West Virginia Gov.-elect Joe Manchin makes a point during his announcement of his transition team at a news conference on Wednesday at the Radisson Hotel in Morgantown.



Libby Samford and other residents of Westminster, S.C., use touch-screen voting machines to cast their ballots on Tuesday, at the American Legion Post 107. This is the first election in South Carolina to use the machines, which replaced the old voting booths at the hall.

ELECTION 2004



The states included in this region are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin.



Illinois U.S. Senator-elect Barack Obama, with wife Michelle, is only the fifth black U.S. Senator to be elected in history. He defeated Republican Alan Keyes in the nation's first Senate race with two black major-party candidates.

ILLINOIS

PRESIDENT (21) — Kerry, in a landslide.

SENATE — For the second time in 12 years, Illinois elected a black U.S. senator. Democrat Barack Obama easily bested Republican Alan Keyes in race for seat of retiring GOP Sen. Peter Fitzgerald. Keyes moved from Maryland after a sex scandal forced primary winner Jack Ryan out.

HOUSE — Old: 10R, 9D. New: 10D, 9R. Phil Crane, 35-year veteran congressman and most senior Republican in the House, lost to Democratic businesswoman Melissa Bean, who argued that his long service didn't add up to clout in the House.

EXIT POLL — One-third of conservatives and four of 10 Republicans chose Obama over the staunchly conservative Keyes.

INDIANA

PRESIDENT (11) — Bush rolled to easy victory in state that hasn't backed a Democrat for White House since Lyndon Johnson.

SENATE — Democratic incumbent Evan Bayh bested sociology professor Marvin Scott.

GOVERNOR — Former Bush budget director Mitch Daniels notched comfortable win over Democratic Gov. Joe Kernan, who took office last year upon death of Gov. Frank O'Bannon.

HOUSE — 6R, 3D before election. Race between GOP challenger Mike Sodrel and incumbent Democrat Baron Hill in 9th District too close to call early Wednesday. Hill win would maintain the pre-election party breakdown.

PROPOSITIONS — Ballot question passed that ensures homes, equipment can be exempted from property taxes.

EXIT POLL — Voters maintained their reputation as ticket splitters, nearly a fifth of Bush backers crossed over to vote for Kernan while a smaller number of Kerry supporters voted for Daniels.

IOWA

PRESIDENT (7) — With a batch of absentee ballots still not returned and less than a percentage point separating the candidates, the presidential race in Iowa remained too close to call.

SENATE — Sen. Charles Grassley, head of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, easily won re-election.

HOUSE — Remains 4R, 1D. All five incumbents were re-elected, including Rep. Leonard Boswell, who survived a second challenge from Des Moines attorney Stan Thompson.

EXIT POLL — Voters who thought the war in Iraq was most important chose Kerry. Those who thought the war on terrorism as the top issue picked Bush.

KANSAS

PRESIDENT (6) — Bush victory in GOP stronghold never in doubt.

SENATE — Republican incumbent Sam Brownback built a 70 percent majority with help from liberals and Democrats who preferred him over Democratic railroad engineer Lee Jones.

HOUSE — Remains 3R, 1D. Rep. Dennis Moore defeated conservative Republican Kris Kobach to win a fourth term with his widest margin yet.

PROPOSITIONS — A proposed bistate sales tax to benefit the arts as well as renovations of two professional sports stadiums in Kansas City, Mo., was soundly defeated in two counties on the Kansas side of the metropolitan area.



AP photos

Democratic Rep. Dennis Moore leads the crowd in a chorus of "This Land is Your Land" at his victory rally Tuesday in Overland Park, Kan. Moore beat Republican challenger Kris Kobach in the Kansas 3rd District race.

EXIT POLL — Bush supplemented his solid support from majority Republicans with about one of every six votes cast by Democrats, who make up less than one-third of Kansas voters.

MICHIGAN

PRESIDENT (17) — Kerry grabbed this state where disappearing manufacturing jobs have been a top concern.

HOUSE — Current: 9R, 6D. Former state Sen. John "Joe" Schwarz won Michigan's "only open seat."

PROPOSITIONS — Michigan voters approved an amendment to the state constitution to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Another new amendment requires new gambling venues to get voter approval.

EXIT POLL — Voters who considered the economy and jobs the top issue supported Kerry by about 4-1.

MINNESOTA

PRESIDENT (10) — John Kerry dashed Republican hopes to claim the hotly contested state for the first time since 1972.

HOUSE — Remains 4R, 4D. Republican Mark Kennedy fended off unexpectedly strong challenge from Patty Wetterling, an advocate for missing children since her 11-year-old son was abducted in 1989.

EXIT POLL — Nearly one in 10 Election Day voters said they made up their minds in the final three days of the campaign, and a majority of that bunch sided with Kerry.

MISSOURI

PRESIDENT (11) — Bush won a state that has picked the winner in all but one election (1956) in the last century.

SENATE — Republican Sen. Kit Bond, also a former two-term governor, handily defeated Democratic State Treasurer Nancy Farmer.

GOVERNOR — Republican Secretary of State Matt Blunt narrowly beat State Auditor Claire McCaskill, who had ousted incumbent Bob Holden in Democratic primary.

HOUSE — Remains 5R, 4D.

Democrat Russ Carnahan, son of former Sen. Jean Carnahan and the late Gov. Mel Carnahan, won the seat of retiring Rep. Dick Gephardt.

OTHER — Another Carnahan, Russ's sister Robin, won a bid for secretary of state.

EXIT POLL — Asked which one issue mattered most, a quarter of Missourians cited "moral values." And nearly nine in 10 of those voters favored Bush.



SPRINGFIELD (MO.) NEWS-LEADER/AP

Republican Matt Blunt, Missouri governor-elect, addresses the crowd gathered in Springfield, Blunt rode an overwhelming wave of rural support to defeat Democratic State Auditor Claire McCaskill.

ELECTION 2004

NEBRASKA

PRESIDENT (5) — Bush, unsurprisingly. Since 1964, Nebraska has backed Republicans every time.

HOUSE — 2R, 1L vacant. Republican Jeff Fortenberry will replace Republican Rep. Doug Bereuter, who left in his 13th term to become head of the Asia Foundation.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters rejected legislative proposal allowing two casinos anywhere in the state; also considering another proposal to allow two casinos in Omaha, and 4,900 video poker and slot machines around state. The latter proposal was too close to call early Wednesday.

EXIT POLL — Bush did well among voters who live in small cities and rural areas, where half of those polled in Nebraska live. Kerry fared nearly as well as Bush with voters from urban areas.

NORTH DAKOTA

PRESIDENT (3) — Bush rolls up bigger margin than against Al Gore in 2000. Only three Democratic presidential candidates — Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Lyndon B. Johnson — have ever carried the state.

SENATE — On the flip side, the state hasn't sent a Republican to Congress since 1986. Sen. Byron Dorgan is the state's toughest Democrat, easily winning third term.

GOVERNOR — Republican incumbent John Hoeven increased his victory margin in winning a second term.

HOUSE — Remains 1D. Democratic Rep. Earl Pomeroy, who has a history of tight races, handily defeated a former Navy submarine officer for his seventh term.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters overwhelmingly approved constitutional amendment against same-sex marriages and civil unions.

EXIT POLL — Nearly eight of 10 voters said their finances were same or better than four years



AP photos

Senator-elect John Thune and wife Kim, right, shake hands with supporters at their Republican headquarters Wednesday in Sioux Falls, S.D. Thune defeated incumbent Democrat Tom Daschle, above. Daschle, the minority leader, waves goodbye after thanking friends and supporters Wednesday in Sioux Falls.

ago; most of those supported Bush.

OHIO

PRESIDENT (20) — The new Florida. The race for the presidency hinged on Ohio's 20 electoral votes as officials began counting thousands of absentee and provisional ballots. Kerry conceded before noon Wednesday.

SENATE — In a race that wasn't close at all, Republican Sen. George Voinovich won a second term by defeating Democratic state Sen. Eric Fingerhut.

HOUSE — Remains 6D, 12R. All 18 incumbents, including first-termers Mike Turner, a Republican, and Tim Ryan, a Democrat, easily won re-election.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters approved an amendment banning same-sex marriage or any status that "intends to approximate marriage." In Cincinnati, voters threw out a ban on gay rights laws, the only one in the nation.

EXIT POLL — Bush did better than expected among women, splitting the vote with Kerry — a surprise given that Democrats had fared well among women in the past. Married women supported the president at an even higher rate.

OKLAHOMA

PRESIDENT (7) — Bush cruised to victory by a nearly 2-to-1 margin in a state that has not supported a Democratic candidate since Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

SENATE — Obstetrician Tom Coburn won the race to replace retiring Republican Don Nickles, defeating Democratic Rep. Brad Carson. Coburn spent part of the campaign defending himself against allegations he sterilized a woman without her permission, which he denied.

HOUSE — 4R, 1D. Democratic state Rep. Dan Boren trounced a little-known opponent in the race for Carson's seat.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters approved a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, as well as creating a statewide lottery and increasing the cigarette tax. They also passed a measure giving the state some authority over Indian casinos — and a share of profits.

EXIT POLL — Bush's coattails helped Coburn in his Senate race; eight out of 10 Bush supporters also backed Coburn.

SOUTH DAKOTA

PRESIDENT (3) — Bush an easy winner.

SENATE — Republican John Thune elected to Senate over Democrat Tom Daschle in South Dakota, the first time in 52 years a party leader is defeated.

HOUSE — Remains 1D. Stephanie Herseth re-elected after taking a June 1 special election to fill seat vacated by former Gov. Bill Janklow after he was convicted of manslaughter in car crash.



WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL/AP

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., is greeted by Christian Fraser, as she enters her re-election victory party Tuesday in Madison.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters rejected an effort to repeal sales tax on food.

EXIT POLL — Thune had a strong showing with voters concerned with moral values and terrorism.

WISCONSIN

PRESIDENT (10) — Kerry pocketed a pivotal state that the president lost by just 5,708 votes in 2000.

SENATE — Incumbent Democrat Russ Feingold soundly defeated GOP challenger Tim Michaels, capturing his third term.

HOUSE — Remains 4R, 4D. Democratic U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, the only lesbian in Congress, won re-election. State Sen. Gwen Moore became the first black House member elected from Wisconsin.

EXIT POLL — Half of all Wisconsin voters called the state's economy good; about 40 percent said it was "not so good."

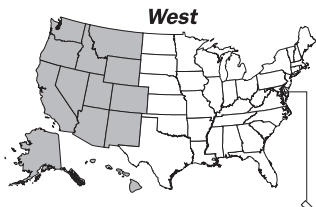


Dr. Tom Coburn, Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate from Oklahoma, waves to the crowd as wife Carolyn applauds, following his victory speech Tuesday in Oklahoma City.



Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio, holds granddaughter Jane after giving a victory speech Tuesday in Cleveland. At left is Voinovich's wife, Janet.

ELECTION 2004



The states included in this region are Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.



Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., right, raises her arms Tuesday with Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., left, at an Election Day celebration in San Francisco. Boxer won her bid for re-election against former Secretary of State Bill Jones, R-Calif.

ALASKA

PRESIDENT (3) — Bush easily took a state that has gone Republican for the last 40 years.

SENATE — Republican Lisa Murkowski earned a term in the Senate in her own right, defeating popular former Gov. Tony Knowles and overcoming the contention that arose when her father, the governor, appointed her to fill his Senate term.

HOUSE — Remains: 1R. Incumbent Don Young, who calls himself the "congressman for all Alaskans," won a 17th term.

PROPOSITIONS — Alaskans rejected a measure to legalize and tax the sales of marijuana. Another measure fueled by the Murkowski controversy to eliminate appointments to fill Senate vacancies was trailing in the polls.

EXIT POLL — A quarter of voters said they had served in the military. They voted for Bush by nearly 3 to 1.

ARIZONA

PRESIDENT (10) — Bush racked up double-digit win.

SENATE — Popular Republican Sen. John McCain, seeking a fourth term, drew broad support across political and demographic lines; he edged out Stuart Starkey among Democrats and grabbed a majority of support from independents.

HOUSE — 6R, 2D. Incumbent Republican Congressman Rick Renzi soundly defeated Democrat

Paul Babbitt, brother of former Interior Secretary and ex-Gov. Bruce Babbitt, for a seat targeted by both parties in expensive, nasty campaign.

Party breakdown remains the same.

PROPOSITIONS — Ignoring opposition from state officials, voters passed measure requiring proof of citizenship for voter registration, and proof of legal immigration to obtain certain government services.

EXIT POLL — Two in five Kerry supporters characterized their votes as anti-Bush; four in five ignored McCain's support for Bush in making their choice.

CALIFORNIA

PRESIDENT (55) — John Kerry claimed the nation's largest haul of electoral votes.

SENATE — Democrat Barbara Boxer sailed to a third term, easily outpolling Republican challenger Bill Jones.

HOUSE — 33D, 20R. California's heavily Democratic congressional delegation was set to return to Washington with two new faces among its 53 members. Republican Dan Lungren won a Sacramento-area seat, and Democrat Jim Costa will fill the seat now held by retiring Democratic Rep. Cal Dooley.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters rejected two expensive casino gambling initiatives, but approved sale of \$3 billion in bonds to pay for embryonic stem cell research.



AP photos

Senator-elect Ken Salazar, D-Colo., flashes a thumbs-up Tuesday to his supporters after his opponent, beer magnate Pete Coors conceded the election in Denver.

Measure to roll back "three strikes" sentencing law was too close to call.

EXIT POLL — Four in 10 voters earning more than \$150,000 chose Kerry, despite his promises to roll back a tax cut.

COLORADO

PRESIDENT (9) — Bush enjoyed a comfortable margin of victory despite late visits by John Kerry to the state where he was born.

SENATE — State Attorney General Ken Salazar gave Democrats a pickup in a solidly Republican state, sliding by Republican beer executive Peter Coors in a tight race. Salazar becomes the first Hispanic senator in more than a quarter-century.

HOUSE — 4R, 2D with a final race outstanding. Salazar's brother, Democrat John Salazar, was neck-in-neck with Republican Greg Walcher in the one race for an open seat.

All six incumbents — four Republicans and two Democrats — won easily.

PROPOSITIONS — The closely watched referendum over whether to split Colorado's electoral votes based on the popular vote was soundly rejected. Voters



Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski celebrates early returns Tuesday at election headquarters in Anchorage, Alaska. On Wednesday, Murkowski was officially declared the winner, defeating former Gov. Tony Knowles.

approved a 64-cent state cigarette tax to fund health and education programs.

EXIT POLL — Women in Colo-

rado were split evenly between Kerry and Bush; nationally, women overwhelmingly supported Kerry.



Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and his wife Cindy, acknowledge the crowd at McCain's victory party Tuesday in Phoenix. McCain defeated Democratic challenger Stu Starkey for his sixth term.

ELECTION 2004



AP photos

Hawaii 1st District Republican congressional candidate Dalton Tanonaka and his wife, Yoko, watch as early results Tuesday show him trailing incumbent Democrat Neil Abercrombie in Honolulu. Abercrombie won.

HAWAII

PRESIDENT (4) — Tight race at the end, but Kerry pulled off victory in a state that's gone Democratic in every election but two since gaining statehood. Islands briefly became battleground at campaign's end after polls showed tight race.

SENATE — Veteran Sen. Daniel Inouye, 80, won a lopsided race against Republican Cam Cavasso, a former state legislator.

HOUSE — 2D Reps. Neil Abercrombie and Ed Case breezed to re-election.

PROPOSITIONS — Four con-

stitutional amendments on ballot, all relating to crime and criminal prosecution, won approval. State attorney general and the Honolulu prosecutor backed them; opponents had said they would infringe on civil rights.

EXIT POLL — One in four voters strongly approved the U.S. decision to go to war with Iraq and nearly all of them voted for the incumbent. Of the 35 percent of voters who strongly disapproved of the decision, nearly all went to Kerry.

IDAHO

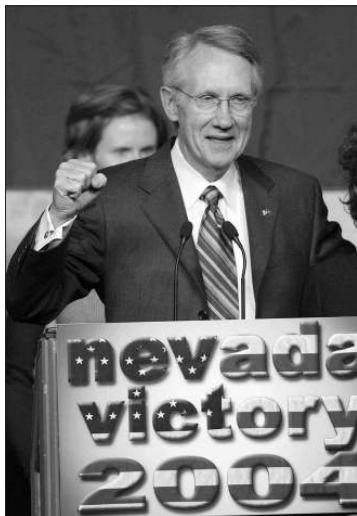
PRESIDENT (4) — Bush won

nearly 70 percent of the vote, one of the highest totals in the heavily Republican state's history.

SENATE — GOP incumbent Michael Crapo raised \$2 million — and spent over a third of it — to fend off an anemic write-in challenge. Crapo got more than 99 percent of the vote.

HOUSE — Remains 2R. Underfunded Democrats offered little resistance to Michael Simpson and Butch Otter, who plans a bid for governor in two years.

EXIT POLL — Eight in 10 Idaho voters made up their minds about the presidential race a month or more before the polls opened, and seven of 10 had set-



Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., celebrates his re-election Tuesday in Las Vegas. Reid easily defeated Republican challenger Richard Ziser.

ted on Bush.

MONTANA

PRESIDENT (3) — Bush an easy winner.

GOVERNOR — Democrat Brian Schweitzer, who campaigned as an outsider promising bipartisan rule, scored a firm victory over Republican Secretary of State Bob Brown for office. GOP has held for 16 years. Schweitzer made history by running with a Republican lieutenant governor.

HOUSE — 1R Rep. Denny Rehberg by a mile over Democratic challenger Tracy Velazquez.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters turned down mining industry-backed initiative to overturn a ban on using cyanide in mining operations.

Voters approved a constitutional ban on gay marriage and legalized medical marijuana.

EXIT POLL — Schweitzer, who supports importing less-expensive prescription drugs from Canada, received nearly two-thirds of the vote among those ages 60 and over.

NEVADA

PRESIDENT (5) — Defying early exit polls showing slight Kerry lead, Bush won by a 50-48 margin. Bush won the state by 3.5 percent in 2000.

SENATE — Democratic Sen. Harry Reid, the Senate minority whip, was an easy winner over Republican challenger Richard Ziser.

HOUSE — Remains 2R. 1D. First-term Republican Rep. Jon Porter withstood a challenge from former casino executive Tom Gallagher.

PROPOSITIONS — Nevadans voted to raise the minimum wage and to give more protections to doctors from medical malpractice lawsuits.

They also made education a top state budget priority.

EXIT POLLS — Exit polls showed Kerry leading by a narrow margin.

Kerry got a large share of first-time voters and led in Las Vegas, but trailed in Republican-heavy Reno and more conservative rural areas.

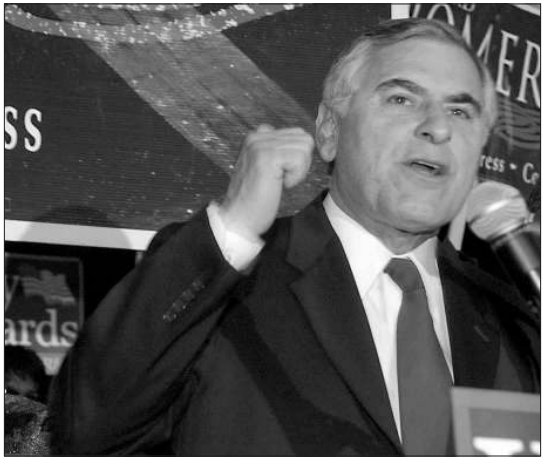
NEW MEXICO

PRESIDENT (5) — Bush and Kerry were locked in an extremely tight race with Bush about 3,600 votes ahead. Nearly 30,000 absentee and provisional ballots remained uncounted.

HOUSE — Remains 2R. 1D. Closest race was a repeat of 2002, with Republican Rep. Heather Wilson retaining her seat by withstanding a challenge from Democrat Richard Romero.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters agreed to allow runoffs in city elections where no candidate wins a majority or some other threshold percentage of the ballot.

EXIT POLL — Bush gained more Hispanic votes than he did in 2000, with about two in five Hispanics supported him. Other minorities, including American Indians, backed Kerry 2 to 1.



State Sen. Richard Romero speaks Tuesday to supporters at the New Mexico Democratic postelection gathering held in Albuquerque. Romero lost his bid to unseat Republican Rep. Heather Wilson.

ELECTION 2004



Democratic incumbent Sen. Ron Wyden cheers for Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry on Tuesday after remarking during the Democratic Party of Oregon election party in Portland, Ore. Wyden defeated GOP challenger Al King.

AP photos

OREGON

PRESIDENT (7) — Kerry prevailed in state's all-mail balloting system.

SENATE — Heavily favored Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden easily won re-election, defeating little-known Republican newcomer Al King.

HOUSE — 4D, 1R. Rep. David Wu trounced Republican Goli Ameri, who attacked Wu in television ads, citing an October newspaper report that Wu tried to force a girlfriend to have sex in the 1970s.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters overwhelmingly adopted a constitutional amendment that bans gay marriage.

EXIT POLL — Nearly two of every three women surveyed cast their ballots for Kerry. Hispanics supported the Democratic candidate by a 4-to-1 margin.

UTAH

PRESIDENT (5) — Bush's win was a foregone conclusion.

SENATE — Another safe win for the GOP: two-term incumbent Bob Bennett coasted to a huge victory over Democrat Paul Van Dan, a former attorney general.

GOVERNOR — In a battle of household names, Republican Jon Huntsman Jr., trade official under President Bush and heir to a chemical fortune, defeated Scott Matheson, son of Utah's last Democratic governor.

HOUSE — Remains 2R, 1D. Matheson's brother, Rep. Jim Matheson, held onto his seat despite a barrage of negative 11th hour campaigning by his opponent, John Swallow. The race was a rematch of 2002.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

OTHER — Democrat Peter Corroon barely won the Salt Lake City mayor race, beating a replacement candidate for who only got on the Republican ballot when incumbent Nancy Workman quit amid felony charges of misusing public money.

EXIT POLL — Eight out of 10 Mormons went for Bush.

more than \$100,000 a year voted for Bush.

WYOMING

PRESIDENT (3) — Vice President Dick Cheney's home state gives Bush a landslide.

HOUSE — 1R. Republican Bar-



Republican Jon Huntsman Jr., right, is hugged by his father, Jon Huntsman Sr., after winning Utah's governorship Tuesday.

bars Cubin beat political newcomer Ted Ladd for sixth term as Wyoming's lone representative.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters rejected constitutional amendment to allow Legislature to put caps on medical malpractice damage awards.

EXIT POLL — Bush performed strongly among those who said they had a favorable opinion of Cheney, while Kerry had strong support among those who have an unfavorable opinion of Cheney. About two-thirds of Wyoming voters said they had a favorable opinion of Cheney.

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT (11) — Kerry claimed a comfortable triumph in a state that no Republican has won in 20 years.

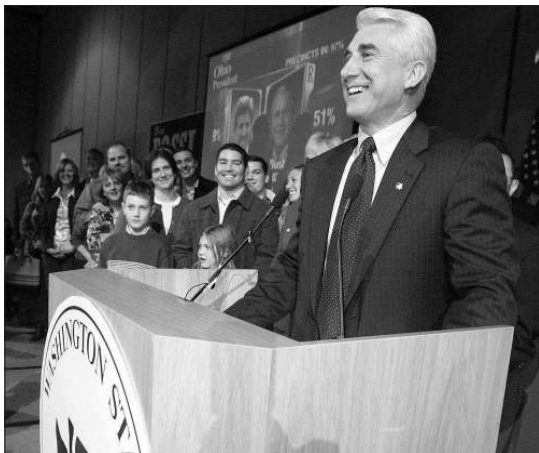
SENATE — Democratic Sen. Patty Murray thrashed GOP challenger George Nethercutt after divisive, expensive campaign.

GOVERNOR — Attorney General Christine Gregoire led Dino Rossi, Republican businessman and former state senator, by just 32 votes at one point early Wednesday with hundreds of thousands of absentee votes outstanding in race to succeed Democratic Gov. Gary Locke.

HOUSE — 6D, 3R. In a tight race for the open 8th, Republican Dave Reichert, the sheriff who hunted down the Green River Killer, led radio talk show host Dave Ross.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters adopted a Louisiana-style primary system that would send the top two vote-getters to the general election regardless of party.

EXIT POLL — Washington's wealthiest residents backed Kerry by wide margins, while nationally most people earning



King County Sheriff Dave Reichert, Republican candidate for Washington state's 8th District House seat, greets supporters Tuesday at the King County (Wash.) Republican election-night headquarters in Bellevue, Wash. Reichert is leading radio talk show host Dave Ross in the race.

Contractor abducted from Baghdad home

U.S. soldier killed, another injured by roadside bomb south of capital

By MARIAM FAM
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Gunmen abducted a Lebanese-American contractor who worked with the U.S. Army from his Baghdad home, Iraqi officials said Wednesday, while four Jordanian truck drivers were seized by assailants in a separate kidnapping.

Radin Sadeq, a Lebanese-American contractor with a mobile phone company, was snatched by gunmen when he answered the door of his home in Baghdad's Mansour neighborhood overnight, Lt. Col. Maan Khalaf said.

It was the second abduction this week in upscale Mansour, where many foreign companies are based. On Monday, gunmen stormed the two-story compound of a Saudi company, abducting six people, including an American, a Nepalese, a Filipino and three Iraqis, after a bloody gunbattle that left an Iraqi guard and one of attacker dead.

One U.S. soldier was killed and another injured when a roadside bomb exploded near Salman Pak, about 12 miles southeast of Baghdad, the U.S. military said.

A suicide car bomber detonated an explosion at an airport checkpoint in Baghdad, injuring nine people, hospital and U.S. officials said.

Gunmen also killed an Oil Ministry official, Hussein Ali al-Fattal, in a drive-by shooting as he was on his way to work, the ministry said.

In the southern holy city of Najaf, attack-



American soldiers walk past a vehicle damaged in a car bomb explosion Wednesday at a checkpoint at the entrance of Baghdad International Airport.

ers fired a mortar round at an Iraqi National Guard checkpoint, injuring two guardsmen, said Lt. Haidar Hussein. Iraqi security forces sealed off the area to search for the assailants, he added.

It was the first major incident since a peace agreement in August ended three weeks of fighting between Muqtada al-Sadr's al-Mahdi Army and U.S. and Iraqi troops.

Jordan said Wednesday that four Jordanian drivers have been kidnapped in Iraq and

two others were shot at by unknown assailants.

Jordanian spokeswoman Asma Khader declined to provide details on the abducted Jordanians but said her government has taken up the matter with visiting Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

She said the two other Jordanians came under fire in the Ramadi area in central Iraq — a Muslim Sunni militant stronghold.

More than 160 foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq since Saddam Hussein's re-

gime fell in April last year. Some kidnappers seek ransom, while others pursue political motives such as the withdrawal of foreign companies and troops from Iraq.

Kidnappers have killed about 30 hostages.

Meanwhile, the kidnappers of aid worker Margaret Hassan are threatening to hand her over to al-Qaida-linked militants notorious for behaving hostages unless Britain agrees within 48 hours to pull its troops from Iraq, an Arabic television station reports.

The threat to Hassan, the Iraq director for CARE International, was made in a videotape received by Al-Jazeera television but not broadcast in its entirety because the station said it was "too graphic."

On Tuesday, insurgents blew up an oil pipeline and an oil well in northern Iraq in a pair of attacks that shut down oil exports from the north, probably for the next 10 days, Iraqi oil officials said.

A huge explosion rocked the compound of Ghabazza oil field, 22 miles southwest of Kirkuk, late Tuesday night.

Early Wednesday, U.S. Marine warplanes hit an insurgent command post in Fallujah in a precision airstrike, the U.S. military said.

Late Tuesday, a known weapons cache site in the southeastern part of the city was also destroyed, according to a statement.

In the past 12 hours, Iraqi and U.S. forces have been conducting "coordinated offensive operations in and around the Fallujah-Ramadi area," the U.S. command said.

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Bungled rescue

MI WARREN — A man trying to stop a robbery at a gasoline station ended up smashing a plate glass window, wrecking his car and calling police on the wrong man. The suspect escaped, minus a shoe, and remains at large.

Michael Lonsway, 43, had pulled into a Shell station in Warren, a suburb of Detroit, when he saw a man run inside and dart behind the counter. Seconds later, an employee stepped back toward a window, hands held high.

Lonsway said he pulled his sedan within a few feet of the entrance, hoping to surprise the robber upon exit.

As the robber climbed across the hood of Lonsway's car, the vehicle plowed through a window, shattering the glass and knocking over merchandise.

The impact knocked off one of the robber's shoes and a fake pistol from his hand.

The robber fled, and Lonsway chased him. He says he thought he saw the robber drive off in a Cadillac and called police on his mobile phone. It was someone else.

Authorities have a description of the robber and are pursuing leads.

Police say they don't advise people to follow Lonsway's example.

Death suit settled

FL MIAMI — The state has agreed to pay \$1.45 million to settle a lawsuit filed by the mother of a teenager who died in agony from a burst appendix in a juvenile jail.

Cherry Williams sued the state and Miami Children's Hospital for \$25 million over the death last year of her son, 17-year-old Omar Paisley, alleging jail employees and nurses ignored his desperate pleas for help for three days before he died.

The hospital, which was under contract to provide nurses at the jail, also agreed to settle but did not disclose the terms.

The death prompted a shake-up in the Department of Juvenile Justice and the departure of nearly two dozen employees, including the agency's secretary and the jail's superintendent. Two nurses have been charged with manslaughter and murder.

Student still missing

PA STATE COLLEGE — Police are no closer to finding Penn State student Cindy Song now than they were when she disappeared three years ago.

Song, 21, from South Korea, was last seen outside her apartment early on Nov. 1, 2001, after attending a Halloween party.

Leads are drying up, and many of Song's friends who had given information to police have left the area in the years since her death.

At the height of the investigation, state police had five or six troopers working on the case. Now, two troopers do "routine updates," said state police Capt. Joseph Holmberg, who last spoke to Song's family eight months ago.

A year ago, the lead investigator in the case, Ferguson Township Detective Brian Sprinkle, said he had obtained "absolutely the best lead yet" while probing the possible involvement of convicted bank rob-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ber Hugo Selenski in the woman's disappearance.

But Song was not among five sets of remains unearthed from the backyard of Selenski's Luzerne County home last year, and Selenski has not been charged in her death.

Residents return home

WV HUNTINGTON — Most of the 2,000 people forced to evacuate after a 22,000-gallon railroad tanker leaked chemicals into a creek and sewer system have been permitted to return home.

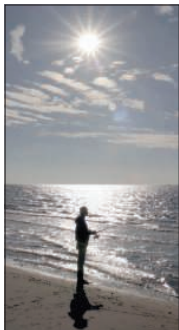
The leak in Huntington, a small city near the Ohio border, prompted initial fears that the concentrated vapors could explode.

Emergency crews have so far removed about 42,000 gallons of contaminated material and are no longer concerned about an explosion.

At least 80 percent of the affected area had tested free of benzene, a chemical contained in the spilled oil that can cause dizziness, drowsiness and unconsciousness when inhaled, said Rudy Raynes of the state's Regional Response Team.

Ramadan banners flying

CA SAN DIEGO — Banners celebrating the Muslim holy month of Ramadan were again flying from a neighborhood's light posts, a week after the city removed them in a dispute that drew protests and claims of hypocrisy.



Casting out to sea

Tom Schuck is silhouetted against the setting sun's reflection on the water as he fishes in the Delaware Bay in Fortescue, N.J.

Abdur-Rahim Hameed said he cried with joy when he saw the 2-by-6-foot banners, which have been raised annually for six years.

"It was just like 'The Grinch Who Stole Christmas,'" he said.

Hameed was among several entrepreneurs in the Diamond Business Improvement District who objected when a city code enforcement officer ordered the removal of the banners, which say Ramadan Mubarak, or Blessed Ramadan, around a star and crescent moon.

It was somewhat unclear why the 16 banners were taken down.

Girl survives days in car

NY NEW YORK — A 2-year-old girl survived four days in a parked sport utility vehicle with the body of her slain mother, police said Friday.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said authorities were investigating the apparent mishandling of a 911 call that could have led to the rescue of Rosie Batista a day earlier.

The little girl, who had been strapped into a child's seat, was hospitalized for dehydration and was in stable condition Friday.

Leonardo Almonte, 32, was arrested Friday on charges of kidnapping and reckless endangerment charges. Police said he lived with the child's mother, Cesarina Colon, 32, but was not Rosie's father.

Investigators said they believe Almonte killed Colon by throwing her to the floor and choking her during an argument Saturday at their Queens home. He allegedly dumped her body in the passenger seat of a SUV, placed the child in the back seat and drove to a remote street about a mile away.

A security camera at a nearby business recorded Almonte parking the vehicle early Sunday, police said. A coat had been thrown over Colon's head.

Student death accidental

CO COLORADO SPRINGS — A Colorado College student who fell to his death from a fourth-floor dorm window was "acutely intoxicated" but had no illegal drugs in her system, the El Paso County coroner said.

Toxicology tests show Amanda Morrison, 20, of Clifton Park in Saratoga County, N.Y., had a blood-alcohol level of 0.22 percent. The legal blood-alcohol level for driving in Colorado is .08 percent.

Morrison's roommate told police they had smoked marijuana and drank for up to 2½ hours Oct. 21 before Morrison lost her balance on the dorm window. Police said they found empty liquor bottles, marijuana and prescription drugs in the room. The coroner found no illegal drugs in Morrison's system and ruled the death accidental.

Rockets incinerated

AL ANNISTON — The Army said it has incinerated the last of more than 42,000 sarin-filled rockets stored in dirt-covered bunkers at Anniston Army Depot. A chemical weapons incinerator will now be used to destroy thousands more aging Cold War-era agents and gases stockpiled there.



Still cleaning up

John Danila, of Big Dog's Tree Service in Ormand Beach, Fla., cuts down a

wayward pine tree damaged in recent hurricanes.



Nothing but blue skies

Pilot Eddie Andreini flies his Boeing Stearman over the crowd at Vandenberg Air Force Base near Lompoc, Calif., during the Western Air and Space Show.



Changing seasons

Fall leaves frame a student crossing the snow-covered campus of Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Ariz.



51 shopping days left

A city worker decorates one of about 60 palm trees with Christmas lights in Tavares, Fla.



Waiting for a ride

Austin Middle School student Donovan Andrews, 13, finds shelter

from blowing wind and snow as he waits for a ride after school in Amarillo, Texas. The first winter storm of the season rolled across the panhandle this week with rain, sleet, snow and windchills in the teens.



Misty morning

Timmy Hord plays the bagpipes at the 25th annual Waxhaw Scottish Highland Games at Cane Creek Park near Waxhaw, N.C. Around 40 clans, representing different families of Scottish descent, took part in the traditional games.



Stormy weather

A cloud approaches the Arkansas River as a storm moves into Fort Smith, Ark., from eastern Oklahoma.

Body found in plant

ID COEUR D'ALENE — The crushed body of a homeless man was found between layers of compacted cardboard at recycling plant.

Police have identified the 42-year-old man but are withholding his name until his family can be notified. Investigators believe his death was accidental, Sgt. Christie Wood said. The body was found Friday in a 40-foot pile of crushed cardboard at Bluebird Recycling, which uses a compactor truck to service recycling bins between Hayden and Coeur d'Alene.

Radioactive gauge found

VA RICHMOND — A measuring device containing radioactive material was found in a coastal Virginia pawnshop almost two weeks after it was stolen from a truck while the driver shopped. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is investigating how the gauge was secured before the theft, spokesman Neil Sheehan said. "It either has to be under surveillance or has to be locked up. Neither was occurring," he said.

Pawn shop owner Mitchell Dunbar said he paid \$30 for the footlong shielding container but didn't know what to make of it at first. He said he only learned from a TV news report that the device was stolen and contained radioactive material.

Dunbar said he gave authorities information on the seller. The company owning the device could face NRC fines for failing to secure the device.

News program canceled

CA WESTMINSTER — A Vietnamese television station in southern California canceled a news program after it briefly aired images of the communist Vietnamese flag and Ho Chi Minh, the founder of communist Vietnam.

Executives at Saigon TV canceled "Vietnamese American Xposure," a weekly half-hour English-language program, and issued a public apology after dozens of angry viewers complained about the flag and photos.

Michael Nguyen, head of Saigon TV, said it is considered unacceptable to show images of Ho or the communist flag in Vietnamese media in the United States because they can be offensive to Vietnamese refugees.

Saigon TV is privately owned and broadcast statewide.

Nguyen said he did not see the news segment before it was aired by a non-Vietnamese technician who was unaware of the significance of the images.

The segment was about protests that erupted in 1999 when a video store owner in Orange County's "Little Saigon" community, home to the largest concentration of Vietnamese outside of Vietnam, hung the flag and a poster of Ho in his shop.

Truck driver convicted

KS WICHITA — A jury convicted a truck driver of killing and decapitating a housekeeper nearly a dozen years after he was mistakenly freed in a rape case due to mislabeled evidence.

Douglas S. Belt, 42, was convicted of capital murder, attempted rape and aggravated arson for the slaying of 43-year-old Lucille Gallegos. Belt faces a possible death

sentence when the trial's penalty phase begins.

Prosecutors said Belt had a pattern of violent behavior that began in the late 1980s and ended with Gallegos' slaying in the Wichita apartment where she worked in June 2002.

Last year, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation admitted that Belt was mistakenly cleared of a 1991 rape when another person's DNA sample was accidentally labeled with his name in an agency lab. His own sample had been labeled "unknown."

The mistake was discovered after Belt's arrest for the housekeeper's death when a DNA sample matched the blood evidence from the 1991 case, as well as several other rape cases. Bureau director Larry Welch later apologized, saying the mistake allowed Belt "to remain free and to continue criminal activity."

Sentence for '75 murder

MA CAMBRIDGE — A man was sentenced to 19 to 20 years in prison for strangling a 14-year-old girl in 1975, a case that remained closed for more than 20 years until police read a diary kept by the man's mother.

David Allen Jones, 45, was the 16-year-old neighbor of Robin Gilbert when her body was found on a golf course in Revere.

Shortly after her death, a medical examiner ruled that she died as a result of heart disease. The case remained closed until 1996, when authorities received a tip that led them to a diary kept by Jones' mother. The contents have not been disclosed.

Gilbert's body was exhumed and, in 1997, a different medical examiner conducted a second autopsy, finding that Gilbert had been strangled.

Jones was arrested at his home in Georgia in 1997 and charged with murder. A jury convicted him of the lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter.

Church bulldozed

MS VICKSBURG — A man was arrested on vandalism charges after police said he drove a bulldozer into a church, an attack parishioners claim was racially motivated.

Jane Beairnack, 21, was arrested and charged with felony malicious mischief, Detective Todd Dykes said. The bulldozer struck the trailer that housed the First Assembly of Vawch Vicksburg.

The church has a black congregation and the suspect is white.

Church members said they suspect the act was racially motivated and have asked the FBI to investigate.

The bulldozer was parked 100 yards behind the trailer.

Silencing the whistles

MO ST. JOSEPH — The warning whistles that wail 60 times a day as freight trains approach downtown crossings do more than jolt people in nearby homes, businesses and hotels. Officials say they also threaten the city's efforts to attract downtown development.

They hope new federal rules allowing railroad "quiet zones" will force trains to sound their horn only during emergencies.

Stories and photos from wire services

Maupins hold out hope through uncertainty

Family refuses to accept grainy execution footage; Army's search goes on

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

Carolyn Maupin prays that out of sight doesn't mean out of mind for her soldier son, taken hostage in Iraq this spring.

Despite rumors that Spc. Keith "Matt" Maupin might have been shot to death by insurgents, the Army assures the Batavia, Ohio, family that troops in Iraq continue their search for the captured 20-year-old truck driver and Army Reservist.

Keith Maupin believes his son was not executed.

"My son is alive. I just know it," Spc. Maupin, with the 724th Transportation Company, disappeared April 9 after an attack on his fuel convoy. On June 29, hours after U.S. officials turned over sovereignty to the interim Iraqi government, al-Jazeera reported that Maupin had been shot in the head. The station did not broadcast a video it said it had showing the death.

According to an Associated

Press story in June, the Arab television network aired a video showing a blindfolded man sitting on the ground and identified as Maupin by a statement issued with the footage. Al-Jazeera said that in the next scene, gunmen shoot the man in the back of the head, in front of a hole dug in the ground.

U.S. military officials and Maupin's father have seen still photographs taken from that video and cannot confirm the man shown being shot is Maupin.

Maj. Willie Harris, a spokesman for the Army's Reserve 88th Regional Readiness Command, the transportation company's parent command in Fort Snelling, Minn., said the photographs he saw were of poor quality and the hostage's face was not visible.

"I did see still pictures of the alleged shooting, but the man was not discernible in the photos. It appeared to be a male with a blind-

fold kneeling down and he was seen from the back. I could not see his face."

The video footage was grainy and the hostage's face was not identifiable, according to Jihad Ballout, an al-Jazeera spokesman.

"It was really obscure and we could not identify the person in the video," he said from the station's headquarters in Doha, Qatar.

Army officials won't discuss the search for Maupin, who on April 23 was officially classified as captured.

"We don't want to do anything or say anything... that may hinder any type of investigation or send the wrong messages to anyone who has him," Harris said.

The lack of communication by Maupin's hostage-takers might be by design, said Chris Hellman military policy analyst at the Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation in Washington.

"If they know the U.S. policy is

to not negotiate at all with hostage-takers, why do they take hostages? To sow fear and uncertainty in their adversary," Hellman said. "Knowing the status of a person, be it dead or alive, is more reassuring to colleagues than not knowing. If your enemy is capable of disappearing you at their convenience and doing with you what they want, and leaving others guessing, wouldn't that be unsettling to you?"

"You don't sleep and you spend a lot of time looking over your shoulder," he said.

And to some degree, hostage-taking in Iraq "has become a business," said Allen Keisewetter, a scholar at the Middle East Institute in Washington, and former deputy assistant deputy secretary at the State Department for Near East Affairs in 2000 and 2001.

"Some people who take hostages contract them out to other organizations for money. They may have sold him for some reward to another organization," said Keisewetter, who is not familiar with the specifics of Maupin case and was speaking generally.

Updates about their son trickle into the homes of Spc. Maupin's parents, a dearth of information that now leaves the family to rely on hope and prayers.

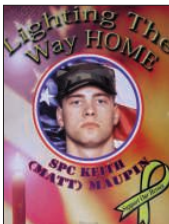
"There really isn't anything new, and there hasn't been for a while now," Carolyn Maupin, 57, said. "He is still listed 'captured, whereabouts unknown' and all I know is that they are looking. [Army officials] guarantee me they are looking, but to what depth, I don't know."

"They are looking. I honestly do believe that. I feel that."

Keith Maupin said his days are marked "by highs and lows."

"The lows are when I think he'd been shot. And sometimes visits from Army officials. Their visits, with no news, [are] like a roller coaster."

The Maupins say what used to be near-daily visits from a casualty assistance officer in April and then in June, when reports of the videotape surface, have become



Courtesy of the Maupin family

A poster of Spc. Keith "Matt" Maupin is posted "almost everywhere they will let us put one up," according to Matt's dad, Keith Maupin.

sporadic visits or phone calls on no set schedule in which officials simply say they still are looking.

"They're looking for him. Plain and simple," Keith Maupin, 54, said. The specialist's younger brother, Kent, is a Marine lance corporal who is not deployed. He has two older half-siblings, Leann and Steve Spencer.

In part to cope with grief, Keith Maupin runs the family's support center that sells ribbon-shaped magnets in support of the troops for a "suggested \$5 donation." Proceeds go to buy and ship care packages to deployed troops. Troops can e-mail wish list to k.maupin@yahoo.com.

Keith Maupin himself a former Marine, did not try to talk his sons out of military life. "I never talked to the boys about it. I didn't try to discourage it. I taught them to make their own decisions."

His son's role in Iraq makes him proud.

Now, if only they'd bring him home.

"In my heart, he's alive, and wondering why they haven't come and got him yet. That's what I think. They need, have to, bring him home."

E-mail: sandra.jontz@jontz@stripes.osd.mil

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U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,122 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 860 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department as of Tuesday. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is three higher than the Defense Department's tally last updated Tuesday 10 a.m. EST.

The British military has reported 70 deaths: Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 984 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 751 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers as of Tuesday.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 8,287 U.S. servicemen have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department's weekly tally.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- No deaths reported.
- The latest identifications reported by the military:
- No identifications reported.

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Election Day snow



AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS/AP

Stranded vehicles sit on snow-covered Ninth Avenue, which authorities closed to traffic, on Tuesday morning in Amarillo, Texas. Wet snow blanketed parts of Texas on Tuesday, cutting power to thousands. The heaviest accumulation was more than a foot in the Lubbock area.

Fire guts courthouse

The Associated Press

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. — A fire broke out Wednesday at the Prince George's County courthouse, gutting a large section of the ornate building that was undergoing renovations.

Two floors of the three-story red brick structure, the old section of the courthouse complex, were destroyed, and the roof was completely burned off.

The four-alarm fire began on the roof of the more than century-old building about 8:30 a.m.,

said Prince George's Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department spokesman Chauncey Bowers.

"This is one of the worst fires that we've had, and it's particularly bad due to the history of this building," he said.

At least 100 firefighters were battling the blaze, where they struggled with high wind, Bowers said. Firefighters shot torrents of water at the front of the building from three trucks.

Authorities said they did not believe anyone had been hurt.



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IN THE WORLD

Karzai elected as Afghan president

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Hamid Karzai was declared the winner of Afghanistan's first-ever presidential election



Karzai

Wednesday, after a three-week probe into vote fraud found no grounds to invalidate his triumph.

The joint U.N.-Afghan electoral board confirmed that the incumbent had clinched a five-year term as the country's first popularly chosen leader.

"His excellency Hamid Karzai is the winner of the election," board chairman Zakim Shah said at a ceremony in the capital. "We are announcing the first elected president of Afghanistan."

Shah said Karzai won 55.4 per-

cent support in the Oct. 9 election, 39 points clear of his closest challenger and enough to avoid a second round.

A spokesman for Karzai, who was in the United Arab Emirates for the funeral of his late president, said his camp was "very glad to finally have the result we wanted" and appealed to rivals to put a bruising campaign behind them.

"We are starting a new life, a new Afghanistan and we hope everyone will cooperate with its reconstruction," Elni said.

Karzai was expected to make a victory speech in the Afghan capital on Thursday. However, his nearest rival, former Education Minister Yunus Qanooni, refused to concede defeat, raising the risk of political instability in a country slowly emerging from a quarter-century of war.

The result of the election — itself delayed from June because of insecurity and logistical problems — was held up by weeks of mud-slinging by Karzai's challengers, who threatened to boycott the results.



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2059	Aid to Children, Youth and Families	2092	Engaging Ministries International
2060	Alcohol & Drug Recovery Fund	2093	Family Research Council
2061	Alliance Defense Fund	2094	Feed The Children
2062	American Family Association	2095	Fellowship of Christian Athletes
2063	Americans Caring for Children Worldwide	2096	Focus on the Family
2064	Association for Christian Conference, Teaching & Service (ACCCTS)	2097	Food for the Hungry, Inc.
2065	Association of Gospel Rescue Missions	2098	Home School Foundation
2066	Aware Cude International	2099	International Christian Concern
2067	Baptist World Alliance	2100	Kids for the Kingdom
2068	Bible League	2101	Life Ties, Inc.
2069	Billy Graham Evangelistic Association	2102	Mercy Ships
2070	Blessings International	2103	Mexican Medical
2071	Cadence International	2104	Military Community Youth Ministries
2072	Campus Crusade for Christ's Great Commission Foundation	2105	Mission Aviation Fellowship
2073	Campus Crusade for Christ's Great Commission Foundation	2106	Mosley Bible Institute
2074	Care Net	2107	MOPS International
2075	Child Abuse Intervention Fund	2108	Navigators, The
2076	Children's Christian Hunger Network	2109	Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, Inc.
2077	Children's Food Fund/World Emergency Relief	2110	Officers' Christian Fellowship of the USA
2078	Children's HopeChest	2111	Operation Blessing International Relief and Development Corp.
2079	Children's Hunger Relief Fund	2112	Operation Blessing International Relief and Development Corp.
2080	Children's Survival Fund	2113	Prison Fellowship International
2081	Christian Blind Mission International	2114	Prison Fellowship Ministries
2082	Christian Broadcasting Network, The	2115	Promise Keepers
2083	Christian Foundation for Children and Aging	2116	Samaritan's Purse
2084	Christian Legal Society	2117	Senior Care Fund
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2087		2120	World Concern (A Division of CRISTA Ministries)
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Focus on job, not praise

The writer of "All fighters deserve praise" (Letter, Oct. 28) needs to stop worrying about who is getting praise and who is not.

Secretary of State Colin Powell commented on Edward Sells' death because Sells worked for the State Department, the same as a commander would do for one of his soldiers killed in action.

Soldiers don't do their job for praise. I think the writer should concentrate more on doing his job and getting home alive than on what is being said about others.

Also, in response to the writer of the letter "Another point for shorter shorts" (Oct. 28), because of the downsizing during the Clinton administration we don't have the resources to make shorter trousers.

I am a veteran of Panama in 1989, Desert Shield/Storm in 1990-91 and of Operation Enduring Freedom in '02-'03. During Desert Shield/Storm I was deployed for almost 11 months, and I was deployed to Afghanistan in the National Guard. We had plenty of people who had to leave their families and jobs behind and did it with pride, not complaints.

I don't buy in to the argument that Reserve/Guard soldiers are leaving more behind than are full-time soldiers. Everyone needs to understand that the sacrifices are the same for everyone.

Harvey Foster

Baghdad

CIB is just a badge

After reading the letters of Oct. 29, I had enough whining and decided to add my two cents' worth to the Combat Infantryman Badge brouhaha.

What it boils down to is this: "I'm doing an infantryman's job, I should get an infantryman's badge." And "No, it's ours, you can't have it!"

Let's revisit some of the comments: "The reason I say this is because in Iraq an infantryman's day is at least 14 hours of work — and that is an easy day. Most of the time you are out in sector for 15 hours and on your forward operating base doing three hours of other work." Would the reader like, perhaps, that the Army have a Combat Cook's Badge with a spoon and a wreath around it?

Or from another writer: "Few support personnel get the 'joy' of riding in the back of a Bradley fighting vehicle for eight hours in 120-degree heat."

In the international zone, I know of an armored, artillery, military police and engineer units who've traded their various vehicles (and occupational specialties) for Humvees and patrol sectors, main checkpoints, conduct numerous raids and escort convoys as infantry-styled units.

Further, the comment about a cook's spoon with a wreath around it was a cheap shot. Our supply soldiers, cooks, mechanics, medics, etc. may have an integral part in maintaining the force. To suggest the creation of such a ridiculous badge was a slap in the face, and it was meant that way.

I can understand the desire of any sol-

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dier who works under combat conditions to show some type of badge recognizing their faithful actions. According to current regulations, only infantry-related military occupational specialties are eligible for the CIB. So what? Let them keep it!

When I see a soldier wearing a CIB, I know he holds an infantry MOS and received it in a combat environment. Big deal!

So, my fellow noninfantry soldiers, drop this issue. Let the football team keep their varsity letter. Know this: They wouldn't have it without our efforts backing them up every step of the way.

Staff Sgt. David J. Barrett

Forward Operating Base Freedom, Iraq

Men, women aren't equal

In "Equality in combat units" (Oct. 29), the letter writer calls people who oppose women in units of action but also claim women and men are equal, hypocrites. This is true, they are.

I want to propose a new idea as a combat arms veteran. Most of us in units of action oppose women in our units for one reason: We are not equal. I'm not going to debate the age-old argument of man vs. woman. I only wanted to inject a little honesty into the debate.

As the letter writer said, "If men and women are equal, then make it equal across the board rather than creating exceptions to the rule." Am I to assume that includes the Army physical fitness test as well as units of action?

OPINION

Common ground crucial after mean season

BY STAN TINER

The (Biloxi, Miss.) Sun Herald

The clock ticks down mercifully toward the conclusion of U.S. elections and a decision that will, I hope, conclude the clash of angry Americans that in recent weeks has reached a great din of white-hot noise—not to be confused with civic discourse.

This has been the meanest political season, one that has whipped up emotions, exposing the raw nerve endings in the body politic, leaving the nation edgy and paranoid.

This 50-50 division is not a good thing, but in an atmosphere where almost no one sees the other person's point of view.

But if somehow we can embrace a healing common ground of national self-interest, then I would describe that as a miracle much greater than the World Series victory of the Boston Red Sox.

I do think we can recover — we must — but it will require a significant effort on all sides. The winners must certainly be gracious to the losers. But the losers too must do their part.

Professor Douglas Brinkley, the presidential historian, last week recognized the importance of the winner being inclusive, in bringing those from the vanquished side of Tuesday's election under the tent of power. Healing can come only from such important gestures.

But the greater part of reunifying will come from the informed need of national necessity. Enlightened self-interest should allow us all to recognize that in a day when a terror threat hangs over all, we cannot remain divided to such a degree as we are today.

That is not to say we cannot or should not engage in serious civic debate. It is our obligation as the free sons and daughters of democracy that each of us cannot remain divided to such a degree as we are today.

That is not to say we cannot or should not engage in serious civic debate. It is our obligation as the free sons and daughters of democracy that each of us cannot remain divided to such a degree as we are today.

see the need to speak with more respect and civility while addressing those differences.

David M. Abshire, president of the Center for the Study of the Presidency who was a special counselor to President Reagan among other public roles, has written an essay titled "The Grace and Power of Civility." It speaks to the need for civility in all of our public discourse.

In its deepest sense, civility means "respect, listening and dialogue," he said. (In reading those words I examined the current political discussion and found little of those traits.) Abraham Lincoln's "house divided against itself" speech evokes thoughts of another dreadful period. "We have not reached the great national downslope of the 1840s and 1850s, leading to the Civil War, but today we are at one of the low points," the political scientist Ross Baker notes.

And the poet William Yeats is likewise brought to mind: "Things fall apart, the center cannot hold, where anarchy is loosed upon the world, the blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere the ceremony of innocence is drowned; the best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity. Surely some revelation is at hand."

These days feel something like that. Something large is at hand. There is portent in the air. Of what? Abshire's central point deals with the thought that American spirituality can be the uniting principle that will allow us to hold the national center in our time of division and confusion.

Alexis de Tocqueville observed the "religious atmosphere" that was part of the culture of public life during his mid-19th century visit to America. Abshire believes that although we are increasingly a nation of many faiths, we can be united by a spirituality that "can keep us humble and remind us we are but small parts of a greater plan."

We can reclaim the civil religion and civil unity of the founders! The answer lies in our national motto: E pluribus unum. We

I VOTED AND I'M STILL UNDECIDED.



PEOPLE FEELS

are many, but we can also be one in mighty purpose. America's civic identity can, paradoxically, bridge the forces of commitment, difference and tolerance," he said.

Perhaps the greatest of all of our hopes are found in the national spirit evidenced in those awful days after Sept. 11, 2001. Abshire describes it: "As the ashes of hate, destruction and doubt settled across our nation, a renewed connectivity, civility and spirituality arose. Something sacred indeed happened as rescue workers, firefighters and police insisted on going back to face almost certain death."

We can all remember those days, and we can also sadly compare them with the bitterness and division we find today, even as we

wonder how we so quickly squandered the unity that held us together then.

It is interesting how Abraham Lincoln's fine words continue to inform us of truths that we ought not forget: "We cannot escape history. ... The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation."

How then will we be regarded by those to come? I do not know, but I do know this is a moment where history will examine our actions, and I am certain that we must forgive where forgiveness is in order, forget those grievances we have held in our hearts, and move on — together.

For a divided America cannot endure.

Stan Tiner is vice president of the Sun Herald and executive editor of The Sun Herald.

Now that he's won, Bush must follow his own advice

Los Angeles Times

George W. Bush [has won] re-election, [but] this election will be memorable for more than just who won.

Americans on Tuesday reaffirmed their faith in democracy by swarming to the polls with a rare sense of passion and determination that will long be remembered. All those images of long, snaking lines at polling places across the country looked oddly foreign, like footage from some faraway land less accustomed to democracy's rituals and, therefore, still awed by them.

President Bush [won] the popular vote by more than Al Gore [did] in 2000, but again the Electoral College, an antique remnant, [briefly] tripped up democracy. Voters deserve better, and they don't deserve having judges decide. More so than they have been in a long time, Americans are politically engaged and should be treated as such.

Bush's close call is proof of his failings as president, which explain how a flake war-time leader could have assumed himself a comfortable victory. Consider his inability to recognize that he lacked a strong mandate after losing the popular vote in 2000 and his refusal to acknowledge unpleasant truths throughout his term in office (starting with the fact that he lost the popular vote in 2000).

Whether in characterizing the state of the economy or developments in Iraq, this famously on-message White House has repeatedly opted for Panglossian deception over candor and truthfulness.

Even [though] Bush prevailed, he can hardly pretend that he has been vindicated in his approach. The president had every opportunity to win over the nation during the last four years, and yet he has not dramatically changed the 50-50 stalemate of 2000.

In his second term, he can worry about his legacy, not his re-election. That would require leveling with the American people about unpleasant realities and the difficult choices that he faced. He can't remain in perpetual denial about the fact that his plans for Social Security would cost trillions of dollars upfront, that tax cuts don't magically increase government revenues and that the

United States may need a larger military.

During the campaign, Sen. John Kerry promised to restore trust to the presidency, but he didn't, as a candidate, always hold himself to that pledge. Like Bush, he often refused to level with people about some of the hard choices that lie ahead, whether on the need to overhaul Social Security, the real cost of his healthcare proposal or his ability to change the tenor of the war in Iraq.

Then there is the overarching reality of the nation's persistent red-blue split and the fact that half the country was assured to be deeply offended by the outcome of this election, no matter who won.

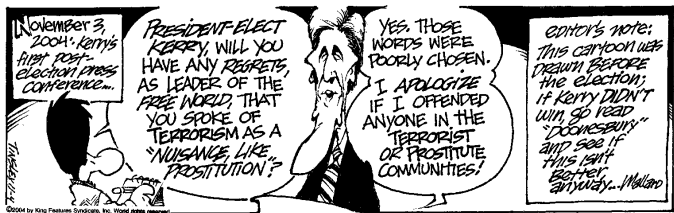
Our counsel to Bush is to dust off the gracious acceptance he delivered in December 2000. Bush then said he agreed with Gore that they should do their best to heal our country after this hard-fought contest. He promised to change the excessively partisan tone in Washington.

"I believe things happen for a reason, and I hope the long wait of the last five weeks will heighten a desire to move beyond the bitterness and partisanship of the recent past," he said, adding that Americans "share hopes and goals far more important than any political disagreements."

That speech deserves to be delivered again, because it was never acted on.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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FACES



Queen Latifah and Jimmy Fallon star in the action-comedy "Taxi."

Comedy vehicle on duty

Fallon and Latifah grab a souped-up 'Taxi'

BY JOE NEUMAIER
New York Daily News/KRT

NEW YORK — An action-comedy team can rush through the jokes to get to the jolts, or rush through the stunts to get to the snickers. But for "Taxi," Queen Latifah and Jimmy Fallon decided to rush the net for laughs.

"For us, it was like volleyball — you set up a joke, and the other person spikes it!" says Fallon, slamming an imaginary ball with his hand. "You can't just throw things out there and wait for a reaction. When your co-star gives you something you can work with, they're setting up your alley-oop."

"And Jimmy's got a lot of spikes in this movie," says Latifah.

"Once we got into a good rhythm, we really developed a shorthand style."

"Taxi," a remake of a popular 1998 French film (and its two sequels), stars Fallon as a fun-loving cop whose lack of driving skills and inept style costs him his license, and his standing in the NYPD.

To prove himself, he goes after a gang of beautiful female bank robbers (led by supermodel Gisele Bündchen), and enlists the help of a car-savvy cabie (Latifah), whose souped-up set of wheels allows the two to race around Manhattan in pursuit of the thieves.

It's Fallon's first movie since leaving "Saturday Night Live" in May after six seasons. (On Saturday's season premiere, Amy Poehler filled his "Weekend Update" chair next to Tina Fey.) He had to do some racing around to

get the movie done, shooting scenes in Hollywood last year while fulfilling his "SNL" duties.

"I would fly to New York on Fridays and write 'Update' with Tina, and then fly back Sunday to Los Angeles," says the 30-year-old comic, who was born in Brooklyn. "With sketches, I'd come up with an idea Monday or Tuesday and call the writers. I'd be writing skits down on a napkin, which is the way they did it in the '70s."

His movie partner has conquered

"I never worry about who sees me in a certain way; it's my job to show them otherwise. But I don't attempt things that I don't feel I can accomplish. If you see me get into it, you might as well wait and see what's going to happen."

For movies, she says, "Doing drama definitely helps you learn how to develop a character, which helps even in a comedy like 'Taxi.' It's different for me, because I'm not a comedian, whereas Jimmy does this for real. But working with him or Cedric the Entertainer on 'Barbershop 2,' I had to be ready for whatever came my way."

Fallon says he "learned how to be funny" on "SNL" after working with the Groundlings improv comedy troupe in L.A. Leaving the show to do his first big film (after small parts in "Almost Famous" and TV's "Band of Brothers") is a little scary, but feels like fun, he says.

"On 'SNL,' you work with the funniest people on television, who then move on, they end up being the funniest people in movies," he says. "I'm going to miss the show, definitely, but this is a different thing. I never really looked at this movie like, 'Oh man, this is my shot!' I just had a great time doing it."

Latifah interrupts with a news flash: "Well... actually everyone felt like this was your shot, and you'd better not mess up!"

Fallon throws his hand onto his head. "Thank God you didn't tell me until now!"

Tarantino planning kung-fu film

Director Quentin Tarantino says he's planning a kung-fu film with all the dialogue in Mandarin Chinese and out-of-sync English dubbing in homage to many such films in the past.

In an interview with Total Film magazine, Tarantino said he decided to do the kung-fu movie instead of "Inglorious Bastards," the working title of his long-expected movie based on World War II.

"I enjoyed shooting all the Japanese stuff in 'Kill Bill' so much that this whole film will be entirely in Mandarin," he was quoted as saying.

"If you're not up to watching it with subtitles, I really want to do a full-on dubbed version," he added.

Brosnan: Farrell would be ideal '007'

Pierce Brosnan, who played British agent James Bond in the last four "007" films, says he thinks fellow Irishman Colin Farrell would be his ideal successor.

Brosnan, 51, said several actors could ably fill his shoes as Bond, which he began in 1995 with "GoldenEye" and concluded with 2002's "Die Another Day."

"But I'll give it to Colin Farrell. He'll eat the head off them all," Brosnan said following an entertainment awards ceremony Saturday in Dublin.

Farrell, 28, appeared with Tom Cruise in the 2002 sci-fi thriller "Minority Report," and has the title role in Oliver Stone's upcoming "Alexander."

Brosnan didn't specify any other actors that he thought would make a good '007.

He also said he was discussing a possible collaboration with director Quentin Tarantino, who is considering making a film of the Bond novel "Casino Royale."

"We have discussed things, Quentin and I, but I don't know if it's going to be that particular project," Brosnan said.

Siegfried & Roy protege wins award

Darren Romeo, a protégé of Siegfried & Roy, has been named the winner of the Magic Castle Magician of the Year award.

A special pre-announcement of the award, to be presented next March at a ceremony at the Magic Castle in Hollywood, Calif., will cap off Romeo's opening night at the Beau Rivage Resort & Casino in Biloxi, Miss., on Wednesday.

Siegfried Fischbacher is expected to attend a private ceremony for Romeo after the show. The Beau Rivage is owned by the MGM Mirage, where Romeo opened his Las Vegas stage show, "Siegfried & Roy present Darren Romeo, The Voice of Magic," in 2002.

"I am so excited he is coming," Romeo said. "Over this past year, it has been very challenging."

Fischbacher's partner, Roy Horn, is recovering from a tiger mauling more than a year ago during the duo's Las Vegas show.

Horn's injury forced the long-running Siegfried & Roy show to close.

"We are focusing on him making a great recovery," Romeo said.

In his show, Romeo belts out Broadway-style tunes.

"I know when you say 'singing magician,' you almost want to run from the theater," Romeo told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "It sounds unbelievably cheesy, but it's really not."

Romeo, a native of East Meadow, N.Y., met Fischbacher and Horn in 1999 after he debuted his show at the Flamingo Hilton in Las Vegas.

The Magic Castle is the home of the Academy of Magical Arts, an organization designed to encourage and promote public interest in magic.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Tarantino



Brosnan



Romeo

Horoscope

Mercury enters Sagittarius, which brings a new wave of curiosity and expansion to our realm of communication. If you've been wanting to learn a new language, this is the time. And you can expect that your vocabulary in your mother tongue will grow as well. It's becoming obvious that in order to attain more, we have to know more people.

Joyce Jillion



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 4). You've deserved respect for a while now, and you are finally getting it. People will take notice of what you say this year. You may find yourself being quoted in the news or being asked to give an important speech. You will come across as confident, well educated and charismatic. It is also very likely that you'll be promoted in December or June.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Like the song says, you can't hurry love. You'll just have to wait. Seriously, you're not doing yourself any favors by rushing into a relationship with someone you hardly know.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Now is an excellent time to mend broken fences, particularly with family. If you haven't been speaking to a parent or child, you should try approaching that person with an outstretched olive branch now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You get a booster shot of confidence! Suddenly, everything you say seems to hold extra weight and importance. Your charisma is magnetic and draws love and admiration to you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Saturn is activating the big issues for you. Marriage, starting a family, home ownership, career path, financial stability and retirement are on the forefront of your mind. Focus on the broad strokes of how you want your life to be.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Relax and enjoy this quiet time for what it is: the calm before a period of intense change and challenge. You

will soon go through a trial by fire.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Examine your current love relationship. Are you really getting the level of commitment and stability you crave? If you're doing more giving than receiving, you need to examine what's motivating you. A Scorpio has an objective view.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your love life shines right now. If you're single, this is one of your best times this year to meet someone. If you're already in a relationship, your love will grow, perhaps bringing with it a marriage proposal.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You will receive an unusual proposition. Consider the source carefully. Listen to your gut. If your intuition tells you that this messenger is a decent human being, allow yourself to explore their offer. It could prove to be lucrative.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your phone is ringing off the hook with people inviting you to parties, workshops and lectures. You may feel inundated with e-mail. Luckily, you'll be able to discern the important stuff from the spam.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Some call you obsessive. The truth is, you're just really, really focused. It's that single-mindedness that keeps you on target. Like a laser-guided missile, you know exactly where you need to get to.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Consider taking on an intern, assistant or apprentice. You are such a good teacher that your protégé may soon be able to handle much of the workload alone, freeing you up to focus on the visionary end of things.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). All is not wine and roses at home. Someone is harboring a perhaps not-so-hidden resentment, and it probably has something to do with the in-laws. Find the common ground. Singles are adjusting to a new circumstance.

Creators Syndicate

Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



Better or Worse



To our readers

For the past decade, this column has been written by Joyce Jillion and Holiday Mathis. Ms. Jillion passed away on Oct. 1. Because Ms. Jillion and Ms. Mathis wrote in advance, columns they prepared will run through Nov. 6. Beginning Nov. 7, the horoscopes will be re-named "Horoscopes by Holiday" and will be authored by Ms. Mathis.

Peanuts



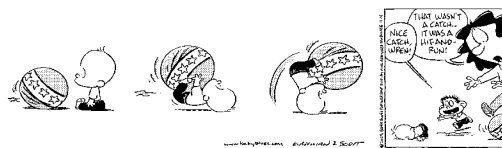
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



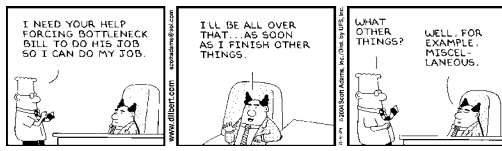
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



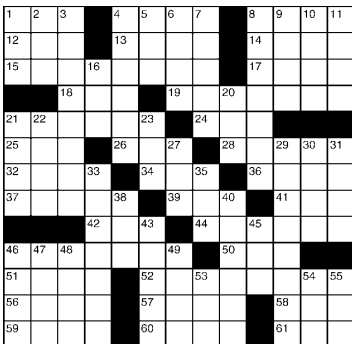
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 George W.'s brother
4 October stone
8 Suitcase
12 Eventual aces
13 Heap
14 Profession
15 Grill
17 Tackles' teammates
18 Haley's "Oz" costume
19 Myopic cartoon star
21 Use an acetylene torch
24 "Of course"
25 Bulling bravo
26 Pal of snow
27 White
28 Dynamite inventor
32 Saxophone range
34 Accept applause
36 Appellation
37 In a contrived way
39 Jinx
41 Predetermine the outcome
42 Society newbie
44 Stations
46 Base of a jug band's bass
50 Director Howard
51 Mideast title
52 Road-blocks
56 Destroy
57 Risky
58 Lullable one

Down

- 1 Chore
2 Space-walk acronym
3 Pear variety
4 Began
5 Snapshot
6 Diploma holder
7 Suspicious
8 "Gigot" star
9 Pugilist's milieu
10 — European
11 Mexican money
16 eBay offer
20 Chaps
21 Daytime TV fare
22 Earthenware pot
23 Playglaze

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-4 CRYPTOQUIP

RP K GKQJFMVVF IFVH
GKYITV RM VTF WRSSAF
UP K GQRWRMKA KGV, R

HYJJUHF TF'H MKRAFS.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN YOU CRY "I'M TENDING MY GARDEN NOW!" I SUPPOSE THAT'S A WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: S equals D

Purdue QB Orton might not play at Iowa

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Purdue quarterback Kyle Orton is questionable for Saturday's game at Iowa with an injured left hip.

Orton was injured during last week's 13-10 loss at Northwestern. Brandon Kirsch replaced an ineffective and injured Orton in the third quarter.

Purdue coach Joe Tiller said Tuesday he is in no hurry to announce a starter for Saturday's game.

"We could hold it as long as game time," Tiller said. "We will delay the decision as long as possible."

Orton said he was feeling much better on Tuesday than he was against Northwestern, and he thought he would be ready to play in his home state.

"You look at the progress I've made from Saturday until now, it's a lot better," he said. "If I can play and help the team, then I'm going to play through some pain. But I'm not going to be out there and hurting the team this week."

After helping Purdue win its first five games for the first time since 1945, the one-time Heisman hopeful has fallen. Orton was just 15 for 33 for 143 yards, one touchdown and one interception last week against Northwestern, Purdue's third straight loss.

In the first five games, Orton completed nearly 70 percent of his passes for 1,642 yards, 18 touchdowns and two interceptions.



Purdue's Kyle Orton suffered a hip injury during last week's loss to Northwestern. The Boilermakers have lost three in a row.

tions. Over the past three games — all Purdue defeats — he has completed just 50 percent of his passes for 591 yards, three touchdowns and three interceptions.

Florida State WR Thorpe suspended; Rix takes over as starting QB

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida State suspended Craphonso Thorpe for Saturday's game against Duke because the wide receiver has missed too many classes, Seminoles coach Bobby Bowden said Tuesday.

Thorpe has a team-high 31 catches for 361 yards and one touchdown for the 13th-ranked Seminoles (6-2, 4-2 Atlantic Coast Conference).

"Dominic Robinson will start in Thorpe's place. Quarterback Chris Rix will start against the Blue Devils, returning to the job he lost six games ago to Wyatt Scott (Nov. 16) at Clemson.

Rix sprained his right ankle against Clemson on Sept. 25. Sexton relieved and led Florida State to a win in that game and the next four.

Sexton was 14-for-30 for 164 yards in a 20-17 loss at Maryland on Saturday and was replaced by Rix, who went 8-for-21 for 140 yards and a touchdown.

Bowden also said starting kicker Xavier Betita will be replaced by freshman Gary Cismesia. Betita missed three field goals against Maryland.

Four Washington basketball players suspended for opener

SEATTLE — Four Washington players will miss the season opener against Seattle Pacific after being suspended for playing in unsanctioned summer games — a secondary NCAA rules violation.

Guards Will Conroy and Tre Simmons and forwards Bobby Jones and Jamaal Williams won't play on Nov. 19. Simmons, who played in two unsanctioned games, also

will sit out Washington's Nov. 25 game against Utah in the Great Alaska Shootout.

French Open champion ousted in Paris

PARIS — Seventh-seed Gaston Gaudio of Argentina lost in the second round of the Paris Masters on Wednesday, falling 7-5, 3-6, 6-1 to Spaniard Feliciano Lopez.

The reigning French Open champion was one of three seeds to lose in the second round Wednesday. The others were No. 12 Dominik Hrbaty and No. 16 Jiri Novak.

But No. 13 Guillermo Canas of Argentina and No. 17 Vince Spadea of the United States advanced easily.

Marat Safin and Andy Roddick were scheduled to play in separate second-round matches Wednesday.

Decision delayed on Greek sprinters who missed Olympic doping test

ATHENS, Greece — A prosecutor postponed a decision on whether to charge two Greek sprinters who missed a doping test and withdrew from the Athens Olympics.

Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou also were involved in a suspicious motorcycle accident on the eve of the Aug. 13-29 Games.

Both runners and coach Christos Tsokos have said they did not stage the accident.

Chief Athens Prosecutor Dimitris Papanagelopoulos was supposed to have decided on the charges last week, but postponed an announcement. He did not explain the reasons for the postponement.

NHL players meet, but lockout shows no signs of ending

BY ROB GILLIES

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Seventy-five NHL players met with union leaders Tuesday to get an update on the lockout that shows no sign of ending.

Among those players was Montreal's Pierre Dagenais, who has said he would be willing to disrobe the union and accept a salary cap if it would help settle the lockout.

Dagenais, one of a few players who have criticized the union's position, said he found the meeting informative — but did not retract

his comments.

"I think everyone knows what I said. I just came here to learn a little bit more. I did learn," the Canadiens forward said.

The meeting at an airport hotel was billed as a routine update on the labor dispute so player representatives could brief their teammates. But the meeting took on greater importance following recent comments by disgruntled union members Dagenais, Mike Commodore, Brian Pothier and Rob Ray.

San Jose Sharks forward Vincent Damphousse, a union vice president, invited Dagenais to the

Lockout numbers

Through Nov. 2

DAYS OF LOCKOUT	48
DAYS OF SEASON MISSED	21
TOTAL GAMES MISSED	132

meeting.

The players met for about four hours Tuesday, after having dinner together on Monday. The meeting included player representatives from all 30 clubs and other players who wanted to attend.

NHLA executive director Bob Goodenow said there was no "crack or divisiveness" in the union. He said no new proposals

would be made to the league as a result of the meeting. He's waiting for the league to make a new proposal.

"I'm hopeful that there will be a season, but I have to tell you, there's a good chance there won't be," Goodenow said.

Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer, said no proposal would be forthcoming from the league. He said the union's latest offer wasn't that different from a proposal they rejected 15 months ago.

"We certainly don't feel it's incumbent on us to offer anything new at this point," Daly said.

The NHL regular season was

scheduled to begin Oct. 13, but games are being canceled by teams on a 45-day rolling basis.

During the last negotiating session in Toronto on Sept. 9, the NHLPA proposed a luxury tax-based system that was rejected by the league. The NHL wants a system that guarantees "cost certainty," which the players association says is akin to a salary cap — a solution it refuses to accept.

St. Louis Blues defenseman Chris Pronger said he's waiting for the league to make a proposal.

"We're still waiting for a response. I'll wait two years if they don't want to give a response," he said.

NFL Challenge

Hall of Fame

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Top Scores for Week 8

Best Overall Scores

194	greekgod	Stavanger, Norway
186	Swab & Tols	Marshall Center
180	kingdaniel93	V Corp
178	Imagnum88	fob danger
176	desaeers60	DCS
176	sfC70	80th ASG NSA
176	Cheesehead	Andersen AFB, Guam
174	Phmedics	18 amds
174	CRUSH	Dodds
174	Joeyy188	Ramstein Air Base

1324	giants#1	hbc 2/37 ar
1286	STELFRGWOOD	MAG-12
1274	Jaguar One	DoDDS
1272	packers97	FISC
1268	Chicklybowwow	726 AMS
1268	Mercury1	Misawa AB
1256	dogboy	374 AMX
1252	Allison	18 CFS
1250	habusaki	friedburg
1250	Jack58	422 ABS RAF Croughton

See website for official games rules.

Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

Law's foot injury leaves Pats thin at cornerback

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — Ty Law's foot injury could not have come at a worse time for the New England Patriots.

Coach Bill Belichick confirmed Wednesday that Law will not play Sunday against the St. Louis Rams, and a representative for the Pats' cornerback said he'll miss four to six weeks with a broken bone in his left foot.

That leaves New England without either of its starting cornerbacks against one of the league's top passing attacks.

Cornerback Tyrone Poole said Wednesday that, while his injured knee is healing faster than expected, he will also be out against St. Louis.

Law was hurt in the first quarter of Sunday's 34-20 loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers, and he did not return to the game that ended the Patriots' 21-game winning streak.

"Ty will be out of the game," Belichick said. "He definitely won't play."

Kevin Poston, the brother and business partner of Law's agent, Carl Poston, told The Associated Press that a team doctor had diagnosed the injury, but Law will seek a second opinion for the broken bone across the top of his foot.

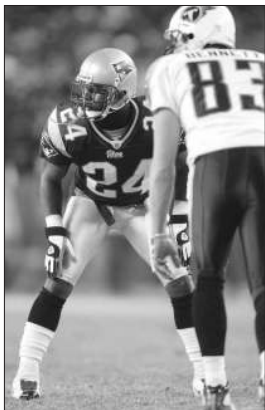
The injuries to Law and Poole, who has already missed three of the past four games, leave the Patriots scrambling to fill holes in the secondary.

Asante Samuel is expected to start at one cornerback position, but Belichick hasn't decided what to do about the other side. He could move Eugene Wilson from safety and rotate rookies Dexter Reid and Randall Gay into the vacant safety slot, or play Gay at the other corner and keep the starting safety combination of Wilson and Rodney Harrison intact.

Wilson was injured in a 47-yard touchdown pass to Plaxico Burress on his first series.

Reid, a fourth-round pick out of North Carolina, has been used mostly on special teams this season. "I'm really about one play. It's about a group of players," said Belichick. "There are a number of options, and we'll try and use the one we think is best."

St. Louis ranks fifth in the NFL in passing yards at 264.1 yards per game. The Rams feature two of the



AP

New England cornerback Ty Law (24) has a broken bone in his foot and will be sidelined four to six weeks. Both starting cornerbacks for the Patriots will miss Sunday's game at St. Louis.

of the league's top receivers in Torrey Holt and Isaac Bruce, as well as a versatile running attack.

Dolphins LB Seau out for season with torn pectoral muscle

DAVIE, Fla. — Miami Dolphins linebacker Junior Seau will miss the rest of the season with a torn pectoral muscle that will require surgery and was unsure whether the injury will end his 15-year NFL career.

"Of course, I will play again," Seau said Wednesday. "I'll say that now. But that could change tomorrow."

Seau, 35, planned to undergo the first major operation of his career Thursday. He has missed only nine games in his pro career.

"I feel like I'm in detention and I can't go to recess," the former Pro Bowl linebacker said. "It's not a good feeling."

Seau was hurt during Monday night's 41-14 loss to the New York Jets.

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. See Friday's edition for complete injury report provided by the league.

Chiefs: RB Derrick Baylock (thigh bruise) doubtful.
Giants: LB Barrett Green (knee) day-to-day; C Shaun O'Hara (leg infection) doubtful.

Jets: MLB Sam Cowart (knee) probable.

Bokkings: LB LaVar Arrington (knee) out up to four weeks; RB Chad Morton (ACL tear) out for season; S Andre Lott (torn pectoral muscle) out for the season.

but the Chiefs needed Holmes on the field to help answer Indianapolis' second-half scoring surge.

"When Derrick went down with a thigh bruise, I had talked to Larry and said, 'Be ready to go,'" Vernel said. "I didn't work, but he will be ready to go this Sunday."

Johnson, who led the nation in rushing as a senior at Penn State with 2,087 yards in 13 games, has only 20 carries as a pro. He's been inactive for several games this year and has made no effort to conceal his unhappiness.

He and Vernel clashed earlier this year when Vernel said Johnson should "take off the diapers" and go to work. When he was not traded by the deadline last month, Johnson publicly accused Vernel of never wanting to draft him.

The Chiefs said they did not trade Johnson back because they like his potential.

Despite his public discontent with his role, Johnson remains popular with his teammates.

Jags QB Leftwich has knee ligament injury

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jaguars quarterback Byron Leftwich might not miss any action despite spraining the lateral collateral ligament in his left knee, coach Jack Del Rio said. Sports orthopedist James Andrews of Birmingham, Ala., examined Leftwich on Tuesday and determined the quarterback will not need surgery.

Some players with the same injury have required four to six weeks of rest, but Del Rio said that rest during the current off week might be enough. The Jaguars (5-3), in first place in the AFC South, host Detroit on Nov. 14.

"We'll re-evaluate Monday and have a better sense of when Byron will be able to join us. We have not ruled out the Detroit Lions here at home," Del Rio said Tuesday.

Leftwich has completed 65 percent of his passes for 1,891 yards, with nine touchdowns and seven interceptions. In four of Jacksonville's wins, Leftwich led the team to victory on its final drive.

If Leftwich cannot play, David Garrard, who has thrown just 60 passes in his three-year NFL career, will start.

Leftwich was hurt just before halftime on a tackle by Texans linebacker Kaile Wong and defensive lineman Gary Walker. Leftwich missed two plays before putting himself back in to finish the game — without the coaches' consent.

Leftwich has had several leg injuries dating to his college career at Marshall.

"Byron is in good spirits," Del Rio said. "He said, 'Coach, give me this week. I'll be back next week. Don't worry about it.'"

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Chiefs' Johnson might see some playing time

BY DOUG TUCKER
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Larry Johnson has been agitating all year for more playing time at running back. The Kansas City Chiefs might have no choice but to accommodate their former No. 1 pick.

Derrick Baylock, who has passed Johnson to become Priest Holmes' top backup, is doubtful for Sunday's game at Tampa Bay because of a deep thigh bruise. That could mean a bigger role for Johnson, who was drafted out of Penn State in 2003 when the Chiefs weren't sure Holmes could return from hip surgery.

Johnson touched the ball for the first time this season on Sunday in Kansas City's 45-35 victory over Indianapolis. But his lone carry, for 19 yards, came on the last play of the first half with the Colts playing deep.

Johnson could have played more, coach Dick Vermeil said,

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Vikings suddenly can run with backfield at full speed

RBs Bennett, Smith give team options

BY SEAN JENSEN

St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press

ON EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn., in the eve of their game against the Houston Texans last month, the Minnesota Vikings watched highlights from their victory over the Chicago Bears two weeks earlier called to music.

"It was like the Oterrio Smith highlight show," coach Mike Tice recalled. "The team went nuts. It fired the team up. It was unbelievable what he was doing."

Smith gained 198 combined yards, including a 36-yard catch and a 38-yard run, and he paced the Vikings to a 27-22 victory over the Bears.

But Smith wasn't in the meeting room that night in Houston, and he didn't attend the next three games, either.

While serving his four-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy, Smith opted not to join his teammates on game day because he couldn't bear standing on the sideline.

"I knew if I was to step foot on the field," he said, "I would want to be on the field, and I wouldn't be able to watch the whole game."

In fact, Smith couldn't even finish watching the games on live television at his home. He accepted full blame for his suspension, and admitted he thought for a "split second" of the impact he could have made Sunday in a 34-13 loss to the New York Giants.

"I served my time, and now I'm back," Smith said. "Now, I can think about being out there and making some plays."

In the meantime, coaches finally can consider all their options at running back and make some decisions. For the first time this season, the Vikings' deepest position has all of its players available, and all have arguments to lobby for the ball, especially with receiver Randy Moss likely limited and possibly sidelined, Monday night against the Indianapolis Colts.

Although rookie Mewelde Moore had a poor game against the Giants, he still leads the team with nearly 400 yards rushing, averaging an impressive 5.9 yards a carry, and has caught 27 passes for 238 yards.

He has shown knacks for breaking the first tackle and making difficult catches.

Michael Bennett broke the shut-out Sunday with a 10-yard touchdown run, and he has his Pro Bowl credentials from a brilliant 2003 season.

He has world-class, sprinter speed that complements the vertical capability of Moss.



Rookie Mewelde Moore (30) will start on Monday if he's healthy, but the Vikings figure to work in Oterrio Smith and Michael Bennett.

“Any one of those three dudes can carry the load.”

The more the merrier.”

Chris Livienski
Vikings guard

Veteran Moe Williams, who led the team with 745 yards rushing last season, does everything solidly, and is adept in short-yardage situations.

Then there's Smith, who dominated two of the final three games of last season and opened this season impressively with 421 combined yards over the first three games. He has the power to run inside, the speed to run outside and the shiftness to move between plays into golden ones.

Tice repeatedly has said that, if healthy, Moore will start Monday. "I haven't been running on it or anything," Moore said of his left ankle sprain. "But as of now, I feel pretty good."

Who starts beyond Monday is purely speculative.

"Any one of those three dudes can carry the load," guard Chris Livienski said. "The more the merrier."

Thin at the position for several weeks, the Vikings are encouraged that Bennett made progress against the Giants and elated that Smith rejoins the mix. Although Smith is not overly talkative, he

Vikings rushing statistics

	Att	Yds	Av	Long	Td
Moore	46	378	8.2	33	0
Smith	40	198	4.9	36	1
Culpepper	40	156	3.9	14	1
M. Bennett	6	20	3.3	10	1

“Any one of those three dudes can carry the load.”

The more the merrier.”

Chris Livienski
Vikings guard

has an air about him, an unflappable belief in himself.

"A Pro Bowler," adding that he hoped the rookie's injury didn't "set him back." Meanwhile, veteran Williams will continue to fulfill his part on short-yardage and some third-down situations.

"He's been doing his thing over the last few weeks, and we don't have (any) other choice but to give him an opportunity," Smith said of Moore.

Smith said the coaches likely will "roll with the hot hand," and he figured his hands would be the ones wrapped around the ball the most.

"I'm not going to talk about it," he said. "I'm going to let my skills speak."

"That's one thing I pride myself on doing. If I get the ball, no matter how many times, I'm going to do something that's exciting."

Given the lack of an impact made by their run offense Sunday, the Vikings are certain to emphasize that position Monday against the high-scoring Colts.

"Everybody has to really step their game up," Bennett said.

"This is a big Monday night game for us. We're getting everybody back, and we want to catch this groove and ride it until the wheels fall off."

NFL statistics

AFC individual leaders

Week 9 Quarterbacks

	Att	Com	Yds	Td	Int
Manning, Ind.	240	152	2161	22	5
Brees, S.D.	206	138	1597	14	4
Roethlisberger, Pitt.	137	86	1133	9	4
Carr, Hou.	209	139	1917	9	5
Pennington, N.Y.-J.	201	126	1783	9	7
Brady, N.E.	215	139	1650	13	4
Green, K.C.	221	147	1783	9	7
Smith, Minn.	273	177	1891	9	7
R. Johnson, Den.	279	169	1819	9	7
Leffew, Jack.	192	111	1382	9	7

Rushers

	Att	Yds	Av	LG	Td
Holmes, K.C.	180	833	4.6	33	13
Brown, Ten.	166	810	4.9	52	5
Martin, N.Y.-J.	171	798	4.7	28	7
Staley, Pitt.	151	707	4.7	38	1
Dillon, Minn.	151	668	4.4	30	5
Tomlinson, S.D.	142	665	4.7	24	3
James, Ind.	129	637	4.9	44	3
R. Johnson, Cin.	127	558	4.4	33	4
Droughns, Den.	117	558	4.8	32	1
Taylor, Jack.	125	511	4.1	29	1

Receivers

	No	Yds	Av	LG	Td
Mason, Ten.	49	589	12.0	58	2
Gates, S.D.	54	611	11.1	29	5
J. Smith, Jack.	42	703	16.7	65	2
Johnson, Hou.	41	665	16.2	24	2
McMichael, Mia.	43	525	12.7	42	1
Smith, Den.	41	508	12.4	40	3
Moulde, Buff.	40	531	13.3	49	4
Harrison, Ind.	37	485	13.1	32	2
C. Johnson, Cin.	36	550	15.3	53	2

Punters

	No	Yds	Av	LG	Td
Lehter, Oak.	22	1029	46.8	45.5	0
H. Smith, Ind.	19	825	43.4	43	0
J. Miller, N.E.	23	1041	45.1	43.3	0
Brereton, Ten.	12	540	45.0	43.8	0
Tardoff, Pitt.	37	1614	43.6	43.6	0
Moore, Buff.	36	1556	43.2	43.7	0
Hanson, Jack.	36	1555	43.2	43.2	0
Ryan, Den.	31	1317	42.8	43.1	0
Chick, K.C.	21	950	45.0	43.1	0
Scifres, S.D.	28	1109	40.0	42.5	0

Punt Returners

	No	Yds	Av	LG	Td
Sams, Bal.	25	331	13.3	78	2
Lewis, Jack.	16	181	11.3	50	0
Moses, Hou.	12	220	18.3	24	0
Northcutt, Cle.	17	178	10.5	44	0
Walker, S.D.	11	163	9.4	32	0
Clements, Buff.	16	152	9.5	40	0
Walker, S.D.	11	114	7.4	30	0
Buchanan, Oak.	13	96	7.4	18	0
Moss, N.Y.-J.	12	85	7.1	14	0
Faulk, N.E.	9	46	5.1	9	0

Kickoff Returners

	No	Yds	Av	LG	Td
McGee, Buff.	28	754	26.9	87	1
Droughns, Den.	12	310	25.8	48	0
Rader, N.Y.-J.	18	429	23.8	48	0
B. Johnson, Minn.	22	548	24.9	31	0
McGee, Buff.	20	548	27.4	31	0
Holmzadel, Cin.	9	210	23.3	32	0
Moses, N.Y.-J.	10	242	24.2	32	0
Russell, Cin.	11	247	22.5	35	0
Coughlin, Pitt.	11	224	20.4	28	0

Scoring Touchdowns

	Td	Rush	Rec	Pt	FG
Holmes, K.C.	8	8	0	0	0
Bettis, Pitt.	8	7	1	0	0
Martin, N.Y.-J.	8	7	1	0	0
Harrison, Ind.	7	7	0	0	0
Tomlinson, S.D.	7	7	0	0	0
Gates, S.D.	5	5	0	0	0
Bray, N.E.	5	5	0	0	0
James, Ind.	5	5	0	0	0
Holmes, K.C.	5	5	0	0	0

Kicking

	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Elam, Den.	18-18	14-16	50	60
Bray, N.E.	16-16	13-13	50	59
Dawson, Cle.	15-15	14-14	49	57
Kearney, S.D.	21-21	10-11	53	57
Brown, Ten.	14-14	10-11	53	54
Graham, Cin.	12-12	14-14	54	54
Bray, N.E.	18-18	13-13	50	52
Brien, N.Y.-J.	18-18	10-11	53	48
Amick, Wash.	8-8	13-15	50	42
Reyes, Cin.	20-20	8-11	51	44
Timmons, Ind.	20-20	9-10	50	44

Team statistics

AVERAGE PER GAME

OFFENSE

	Yards	Yds	Pass
Indianapolis	414.7	311.3	302.9
Kansas City	404.1	307.6	238.6
San Diego	388.2	310.7	253.0
New York Jets	364.3	327.2	261.2
San Diego	330.1	334.1	204.9
San Diego	329.1	347.1	204.9
Pittsburgh	329.9	347.1	182.1
San Diego	329.1	347.1	182.1
Jacksonville	321.3	314.3	204.9
Cleveland	309.3	310.4	186.7
Cincinnati	290.9	300.1	190.9
Buffalo	279.1	285.3	166.3
Baltimore	259.9	317.6	123.3
Indianapolis	255.0	276.5	178.5

DEFENSE

	Yards	Yds	Pass
Buffalo	265.1	97.0	189.1
San Diego	245.5	106.6	138.9
Pittsburgh	241.3	93.3	148.0
Miami	239.5	148.6	190.9
New York Jets	213.7	101.6	112.1
San Diego	190.1	115.3	74.8
Tennessee	191.4	108.8	222.0
New England	189.1	115.3	74.8
Kansas City	179.9	112.0	67.9
Philadelphia	179.9	112.0	67.9
Cleveland	146.5	107.4	39.1
San Diego	146.5	107.4	39.1
Oakland	139.9	139.6	20.3
Indianapolis	137.2	155.4	20.3
Baltimore	118.7	112.9	305.9

NFC individual leaders

Week 9 Quarterbacks

	Att	Com	Yds	Td	Int
Culpepper, Min.	240	152	2161	22	5
McNabb, Phil.	196	125	1872	14	4
Harrington, Det.	196	125	1872	14	4
Ratley, S.F.	246	156	1177	13	7
Bulger, N.Y.-J.	236	137	1650	13	4
Warner, N.Y.-G	231	143	1539	4	4
Brady, N.E.	215	139	1650	13	4
Testaverde, Fla.	233	146	1844	9	7
As. Brooks, N.Y.	247	147	1807	9	7
Vick, Atl.	174	102	1390	6	6

Rushers

	Att	Yds	Av	LG	Td
Barber, N.Y.-G	147	419	2.8	7	0
Alexander, Sea.	147	419	2.8	7	0
Portis, Wash.	170	633	3.7	6	0
Portis, Wash.	170	633	3.7	6	0
T. Jones, Chi.	117	511	4.3	5	0
M. Faulk, S.F.	111	465	4.2	38	1
Vick, Atl.	103	443	4.3	1	0
Westbrook, Phil.	96	458	5.1	0	0
Dunn, Atl.	118	438	3.7	60	3

Receivers

	No	Yds	Av	LG	Td
Horn, N.O.	47	570	12.1	33	4
Walker, S.D.	50	783	17.0	78	7
E. Johnson, S.F.	46	493	10.7	25	5
Driver, S.F.	44	435	12.4	36	1
Owens, Phil.	42	497	16.6	95	3
Bray, N.E.	42	543	12.9	47	2
Owens, Phil.	40	556	13.9	56	2
Wilder, N.Y.-J.	40	556	13.9	56	2
Coyles, Wash.	38	412	11.3	45	2
Clayton, T.B.	37	491	13.3	52	4
Holt, S.F.	37	491	13.3	52	4

Punters

	No	Yds	Av	LG	Td
Lenders, Sea.	29	1266	43.7	43.7	0
D. Johnson, Phil.	26	1135	43.7	43.7	0
Belwell, T.B.	38	1657	43.6	43.6	0
Berger, N.Y.-G	35	1507	43.1	43.1	0
Tupa, Phil.	35	1507	43.1	43.1	0
Wilder, N.Y.-J.	31	1379	44.5	44.5	0
Sauerbrun, Car.	37	1798	48.6	42.1	0
Harris, S.F.	41	1803	44.2	42.5	0
Mohr, Atl.	39	1651	42.3	42.3	0
Rosen, Sea.	36	1507	42.0	42.0	0

Punt Returners

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	Td
	20	311	15.6	75t	
	17	176	10.4	34	
	15	154	10.3	71t	
et.	9	84	9.3	27	
chi.	19	163	8.6	35	
	14	114	8.1	13	
	16	129	8.1	18	
	16	102	6.4	21	
	13	80	6.2	14	
	17	96	5.6	25	

Angels cut ties with longtime closer Percival

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Anaheim Angels won't offer closer Troy Percival a new contract, choosing instead to rely on Francisco Rodriguez in the ninth inning.

The 35-year-old Percival was 2-3 with 33 saves and a 2.90 ERA in 52 games last season. He ranked fourth in the AL in saves, and had 30 or more for the seventh consecutive season, the longest such streak by an active pitcher.

"As much as I would love to finish my career with the Angels, I realize that a club is best suited with only one closer," Percival said Tuesday in a statement issued by the team.

The move was not a surprise. The right-hander had already filed for free agency after 10 seasons with the Angels.

Rodriguez, who turns 23 in January, was used mostly as a setup man the last two years. He was 4-1 with 12 saves and a 1.82 ERA in 69 games in 2004, his second full

season in the major leagues. The Angels won the AL West title before losing to Boston in the first round of the playoffs.

"I have the utmost respect for Francisco Rodriguez, and what he has accomplished in such a short period of time," Percival said.

"I look forward to watching the progress of his career in the years ahead."

Angels General Manager Bill Stoneman credited Percival for mentoring Rodriguez, who became the youngest pitcher to

win a World Series game in 2002, when Anaheim won the championship.

"We've been fortunate to have two closers in our bullpen, one who ranks among the best all-time, and the other whose future in that role is ahead of him," Stoneman said. "We now believe Francisco is ready to assume the role of closer for our ballclub."

Rodriguez probably will not be eligible for arbitration until after the 2005 season.

Jeter honored with first AL Gold Glove

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Derek Jeter's diving grab caught the attention of all of baseball and perhaps earned him his first American League Gold Glove.

The New York Yankees shortstop won the honor Tuesday, taking over from teammate Alex Rodriguez, who had won it two straight years before moving to third base this year.

In the 12th inning of a game against Boston on July 1, Jeter sprinted after Trot Nixon's pop down the left-field line with runners at second and third. He made the catch in fair territory, went spilling into the crowd and was stopped by the hard-backed seats. He was taken to a hospital with a bloodied chin, red-and-swollen cheek and bruised shoulder, and New York went on to win in the 13th inning.

"I take pride in my defense, and I work hard each year to improve in the field," Jeter said in a statement issued by the Yankees. "There are a number of fantastic defensive shortstops in the American League — too many to count — and to be recognized with the Gold Glove makes it that much more of a special accomplishment. I also want to thank our

pitching staff for having so many of our opponents hit balls in my direction.

"Derek Jeter is a great, inspired leader and captain," Yankees owner George Steinbrenner said in a statement. "He certainly deserves this honor."

Toronto outfielder Vernon Wells also was a first-time winner. "My hope now for next year is to put together a complete season when I might compete for both awards, the Gold Glove and Silver Slugger," Wells said.

In his first season with Detroit, catcher Ivan Rodriguez won his 11th Gold Glove, his first since 2001 with Texas and the most for any catcher. Johnny Bench won the award 10 times.

Rangers pitcher Kenny Rogers earned his 40 on Nov. 10, the longest for the third time, the first since 2002.

"I'm not the same guy I was in 15 years past," he said. "There's a lot of things physically I could do that I can't do now," he said.

Despite his age, Rogers had 65 total chances, third in the AL behind Jake Westbrook (76) and Mark Buehrle (71).



New York Yankees captain Derek Jeter won his first Gold Glove at shortstop, taking over for teammate Alex Rodriguez, who moved from shortstop to third base.

"Shortstops and second basemen over the years have complained I go after balls that are hit right to them," Rogers said.

Oakland third baseman Eric Chavez, Minnesota center fielder Torii Hunter and Seattle right fielder Ichiro Suzuki all won the award for the fourth straight season. Mariners' second baseman Bret Boone won the award straight for the second year. Jeter's Gold Glove for the Mariners, his fourth overall, and Anaheim first baseman Darin Erstad won his third award, his first since 2002.

Ivan Rodriguez and Erstad both earned \$100,000 bonuses, while Boone, Chavez, Rogers, Suzuki and Wells each earned \$50,000, and Hunter \$25,000.

The awards are sponsored by Rawlings.

Expos GM Bowen hits ground running

BY JOSEPH WHITE

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Jim Bowden spent his first day on the job acting like someone who planned to stick around.

Bowden was on the phone talking trades with other general managers Tuesday morning, even before the official announcement of his hiring as the interim GM of the Washington-Bowden Expos.

"I look forward to doing everything I possibly can as long as I'm in the position — to send the Expos in the right direction," Bowden said.

Bowden will oversee offseason trades and signings for a franchise in flux, one that is moving from Montreal and searching for an owner at the same time. He expects to return to his job as a commentator for ESPN, which has granted him a leave of absence, when the team's sale is completed during the next several months.

"I really enjoy television," said Bowden, who was Cincinnati's general manager from 1992-2003. "I'm taking this position as an interim position. That's what I agreed to, and that's what I feel I'm going to carry out."

Bowden replaces Omar Minaya, who resigned during the final week of the regular season to become general manager of the New York Mets.

Bowden's first task Tuesday was to get an assessment of every player on the roster from Frank Robinson, whom Bowden said will remain as the team's manager during the transition period.

"I don't think it's fair to make any drastic changes in personnel when you'd be bringing someone in that may be re-evaluated in three months or four months or whenever the new ownership people are in place," Bowden said. "Frank's done a decent job with this club."

There are plenty of other decisions to be made. Several players are eligible for arbitration. The team needs more pitching depth, a shortstop and more hitting to complement Brad Wilkerson and Tony Batista. Batista is also the team's top free agent, although team president Tony Tavaras got a head start on talks with Batista's representatives in recent days during the search for a general manager.

Bowden doesn't know his budget yet, but he expects it to be considerably larger than it was in Montreal, where low local revenues kept the team from paying top-dollar salaries.

Red Sox's Martinez files for free agency

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Red Sox star Pedro Martinez filed for free agency Tuesday, a move that came after Boston's Game 3 victory helped Boston win its first World Series title since 1918.

Martinez just completed a \$90 million, seven-year contract. The Red Sox have exclusive negotiating rights with the three-time Cy Young Award winner until Nov. 11.

"If they don't get me, it's probably because they didn't try hard enough," Martinez said after what might have been his final start in a Red Sox uniform. "My heart is with Boston."

Martinez joins more than a dozen members of the World Series champions headed for free-agent market, including pitcher Derek Lowe, catcher Jason Varitek and shortstop Orlando Cabrera.

"I hope I get another chance to come back with this team, but if I don't, I understand the business part of it," Martinez said. "I'm a New York Yankees right-hander Orlando Hernandez, Tampa Bay first baseman Tim Lincecum and San Diego left-hander David Wells also were among the 11 players who filed Tuesday, raising the total to 181 among the 215 players potentially eligible. Players may file through Nov. 11.

Baltimore left-hander Buddy Groom filed provisionally, pending a decision by the Orioles on whether to exercise a \$3 million option or pay a \$250,000 buyout. A day after Seattle declined a \$6 million team option, Mariners left-hander Eddie Guzman exercised a \$4 million player option.

Backman's bankruptcy, arrests won't affect job status

PHOENIX — Arizona Diamondbacks manager Wally Backman will keep his new job despite revelations of two arrests and financial problems in his past.

"I've made a few mistakes in my life, and I think everybody has," Backman told The Associated Press on Tuesday night. "It's a matter of whether you learn from your mistakes and move on. That's what I'm doing."

The Diamondbacks were unaware of his problems until they surfaced in a New York Times story on Tuesday. Backman met with Diamondbacks owners and other management personnel about his issues and told them he still had the job, he said.

"It was part of the past that I

Briefs

thought was the past, to tell you the honest truth," Backman said. "They probably should have asked me about it, and I probably should have kept it up."

Backman, Sporting News minor league manager of the year last season, was given a two-year contract to replace the Diamondbacks on Monday.

Backman acknowledged that he was arrested in 2001 after an altercation with a female family friend at his home in Pineville, Ore. He was also arrested on a charge of driving under the influence in Kennewick, Wash., in 1999.

Leyland withdraws from consideration for Mets job

NEW YORK — Jim Leyland finally spoke to the New York Mets about becoming their manager and decided he wasn't interested, sources of "Yankees.com," the Randolph, Texas coach Rudy Jaramillo and former Houston Astros and Anaheim manager Terry Collins as the three finalists.

Leyland, a former Pittsburgh, Florida and Colorado manager, had a telephone conversation Tuesday with new Mets general manager Omar Minaya.

"We decided at this particular time it's not a good fit for either of us," Leyland said during a telephone interview. "We agreed on it."

Philadelphia, who interviewed with the Philadelphia Phillies on Monday, didn't want to go into details, and neither did Minaya.

Bonds extends record run with 12th Silver Slugger

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds extended his own record Tuesday by winning his 12th Silver Slugger award, given to the top offensive players at their positions in each league.

For the first time since the awards began in 1980, there was a tie at one position, with Detroit's Ivan Rodriguez and Cleveland's Victor Martinez sharing the honor as the top-hitting AL catcher. It was the seventh award for Rodriguez, the first for Martinez.

In the AL outfield, Boston's Manny Ramirez won his seventh Silver Slugger. Anaheim's Vladimir Guerrero won his sixth, and the New York Yankees' Gary Sheffield his third.

Carter loses case against imprisoned ex-agent

BY PETE IACOBELLI
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — A federal jury ordered NBA star Vince Carter to pay his imprisoned former agent, William "Tank" Black, nearly \$4.7 million in lost commissions and damages.

The panel said Tuesday that Carter breached his contract with Black's company, Professional Management Inc., when he let the Toronto Raptors guard involve the agreement in 2000. It awarded Black \$4,675,640.45 in actual damages.

The jury also found that Black violated his fiduciary duties to Carter and ordered the one-time sports agent to pay \$800,000 to Carter. That was the total of two loans Carter made to Black.

"Obviously, we're unhappy with it," Carter's attorney, Jake Moore, said. "It's hard to understand. One thing I know about judges, figuring out the rationale behind decisions is sometimes very hard to do."

The decision brought a temporary end to the court case that spent several days away from his NBA job as he fought Black, a federal prisoner.

Carter, who testified Monday, had returned to Toronto, where the Raptors were to open the regular season against Houston on Wednesday night.

Black, who signed Carter after he left North Carolina in 1998, sued his former client for \$9 million in commissions for endorsement deals he said he landed for Carter, as well as \$5 million in damages.

Carter countersued, demanding Black pay him the \$15.9 million Carter lost when Puma ended him from a failed shoe deal, and a \$3.3 million penalty for breaking the contract.

The jury said Black and his company were negligent in handling the Puma contract, but decided Carter was not harmed financially by the negligence and gave him no damages.

Black pleaded guilty to money laundering, fraud and other charges for his role in a car-title-for-cash scheme that bilked millions of dollars from sports stars, including Carter, who lost \$130,000. At one time, Black's clients included NFL players Fred Taylor, Ike Hilliard and Robert Brooks.

Moore said Carter intends to appeal and expects to file court papers within 10 days.

Spurs extend Parker prior to deadline

BY T.A. BADGER
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Before last season, the San Antonio Spurs wanted to push Tony Parker aside to make room for Jason Kidd at point guard.

This week the Spurs made a big commitment to the 22-year-old Frenchman: a six-year contract extension reportedly worth \$66 million.

The deal was finalized late Monday night, within a few hours of the league's signing deadline. Had an agreement not been reached, Parker would have become a restricted free agent at the end of this season.

"I'm very, very happy. There has been a lot of stress the last couple of days, and I'm just so happy it's hard to express in words," Parker said Tuesday at a news conference. "The last two or three days I thought it was finished and was not going to happen."

For San Antonio, the signing locks up the team's top three players — Parker, two-time MVP Tim Duncan and Argentine guard Manu Ginobili — for the rest of the decade.

Duncan signed a seven-year, \$122 million deal last year, while Olympic gold medalist Ginobili agreed in July to a six-year pact estimated at \$52 million.

Negotiations between the Spurs and Parker bogged down as the signing deadline approached, and on Monday, an agreement did not look likely.

Team chairman Peter Holt had dug in his heels on his offer of \$64 million for six years, while Parker gradually lowered his price to \$50 million in an effort to get the deal done.

"It was just time for me to make the right decision, and I'm glad I did," Holt said. "Tony is a key component to our success over the last three years. I started looking at that and realizing how important he is to this team."

Parker, who is close with Spurs coach Gregg Popovich, said publicly that he wanted to stay with the Spurs. He said his agent, Marc Fleisher, had urged him to test his value on the free-agent market.

Parker has averaged 13.1 points and 5.0 assists per game in his three-year NBA career.

Watch out, the NBA looks like team game

Based on hindsight and the admittedly slim evidence of an 87-79 opening-night victory over Houston, the Detroit Pistons sure looked like the team that USA Basketball should have sent to Athens to bring back Olympic gold.

They spread the floor and shared the ball, getting double-figure scoring from all five starters. They smothered Tracy McGrady with great individual defense by Tayshaun Prince and neutralized Yao Ming's height advantage by surrounding him with a swarm of bodies.

In short, they dusted off the blueprint Detroit coach Larry Brown drew up last June to topple the heavily favored Lakers and their talented duo of Shaq and Kobe.

"When you have one or two guys, we've got five coming at you," Richard Hamilton said. "That's tough."

If that style of basketball catches on with the rest of the league, it won't pay dividends in the international arena for at least four years. But it could benefit the NBA immediately, making the season a lot more viewer-friendly as it unfolds over the coming months.

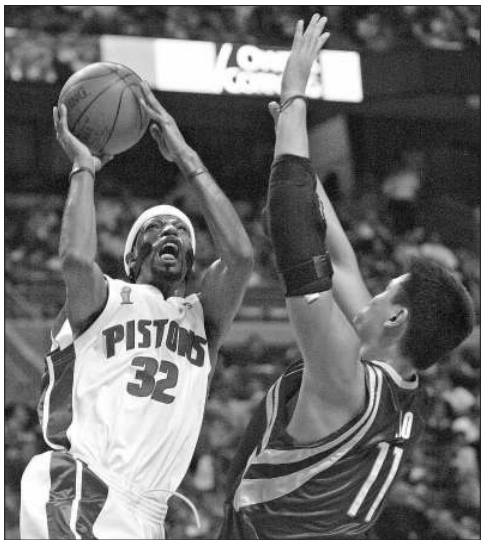
To be fair, it's not as though the league is without its share of compelling story lines. The way the Lakers broke up, like an engine seizing up and throwing parts all over the road, practically guarantees the lingering bitterness between Shaq and Kobe will spill over into the headlines every so often.

And just in case things get too quiet, there's that wonderful scheduling coincidence that matches O'Neal and his new employers, the Miami Heat, against Bryant and his former employers, the Los Angeles Lakers, on Christmas Day. That day also holds the possibility that former mentor and coach Phil Jackson will be telling both of them what to do one more time, though this time as a television analyst.

There's also the prospect of watching Kevin Garnett try to carry the Minnesota Timberwolves to a title, even as Latrell Sprewell expands his horizons in a different way — seeing if he can strangle an entire team. In case you missed it, Sprewell, in the final year of a contract that will pay him \$14.6 million, has already declared himself "insulted" by a contract offer of \$10 million per for the next three years. Better yet, he threatened reprisals if the deal wasn't wrapped up by 11:00 p.m. Wednesday night.

"I think this thing is headed toward me leaving," Sprewell told reporters after practice Sunday. "I'm at risk. I've got my family to feed."

That kind of nonsense is the outgrowth of a policy that evolved over the years as the NBA promoted individual stars at the expense of its teams and rivalries. It served the league well when it was a superstar era. Larry Bird, Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan, who were not only transcendent talents, but also hardworking stars who made everyone



Pistons guard Richard Hamilton drives on Rockets center Yao Ming in the third quarter on Tuesday. Detroit started its defense of the NBA title by beating Houston 87-79.

around them play better.

But the trend backfired as the stars who replaced them entered the league younger and younger, with shoddy fundamentals and a "me-first" attitude that produced a handful of highlight-reel moves every night, but way too much standing around.

All those empty seats in the arenas and the decline in TV ratings prompted Commissioner David Stern to begin looking at ways to improve the product. Most of those efforts have centered on rule changes designed to return some of the flow to the game. What the Olympic debacle did was remind an already skeptical audience how much ground still needs to be made up.

In one sense, the timing couldn't have been worse. The collective bargaining agreement between the NBA and its players expires next summer, and rumbles of a possible lockout are already making the rounds.

Among the items at the top of the league's agenda are a minimum-age rule — likely 20, a

number Stern has floated in the past — and a limit on the length of contracts. Both sides have made it clear they want to avoid the work stoppage that has the NHL sliding toward irrelevance at the moment, but barely a half-dozen years have passed since the NBA last locked out the players.

In the meantime, both parties would do well to concentrate on putting a product on the floor that fans want. There are a few teams besides the Pistons — most of them in the Western Conference — playing an attractive, team-oriented style and the league should be doing as much to put them front-and-center as it has already done to keep the Shaq-Kobe feud simmering. And if not, well, then maybe the Pistons can do it for them.

"A lot of people are still doubting us," Pistons center Ben Wallace said, "so I guess we just have to go win it all again."

Guess so.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: jlitke@ap.org

Lakers' Mihm mimics Shaq

Center scores 23 in season-opening win over Nuggets

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — For one game, the Los Angeles Lakers didn't miss Shaquille O'Neal a bit.

Chris Mihm put up close to Shaq-like numbers Tuesday night, getting a career-high 23 points, 12 rebounds and two blocked shots in the Lakers' season-opening 89-78 victory over the Denver Nuggets.

"I thought our defense was just excellent," Rudy Tomjanovich said after his first game as the Lakers' coach. "That's what we need to be a running team."

The Nuggets, one of the NBA's most improved teams last season, shot a miserable 25 percent (11-for-44) in the first half and finished at 34.1 percent (30-for-88). Tomjanovich succeeded. Phil Jackson, who coached the Lakers to three championships and another berth in the NBA Finals in five years.

With O'Neal gone, the rebuilt Lakers are Kobe Bryant's team. They weren't seriously challenged by the Nuggets although



Roundup

Bryant wasn't the whole show. Bryant had 25 points, seven assists and three blocked shots. He shot just 5-for-14 but made 14 of 15 free throws and scored 17 of his points in the second half.

"Kobe is a heck of a player, and great players bring out the best in their teammates," Nuggets coach Jeff Bzdelick said.

Mihm, whose previous career high was 21 points, was 8-for-16 from the floor and 7-for-10 from the foul line.

"This is a good situation — a good fit for me on this team," he said. "It's a great start for the season. I'm a happy man, I can sleep well tonight. I played well and more important, the team won."

Caron Butler added 11 points, Brian Cook scored 10 and Lamar Odom had 13 rebounds for the Lakers. Butler and Odom were acquired from Miami along with

Brian Grant for O'Neal during the offseason.

The Lakers led by 20 points in the fourth quarter before the Nuggets rallied within seven in the final minute. But that's as close as they would get.

Voshon Lenard scored 13 points for the Nuggets before tearing his left Achilles' tendon with 4:42 left in the third quarter. He will undergo surgery and probably be sidelined for the season, a team spokeswoman said.

"It's going to be out for a while, there's no question about that," Bzdelick said.

Carmelo Anthony led Denver with 20 points. Kenyon Martin, playing his first game for the Nuggets, had 13 points and seven rebounds, and Camby had 16 rebounds and six blocked shots to go with eight points.

Mavericks 107, Knicks 98: At Dallas, Dirk Novitski scored 29 of his 33 points in the first three quarters, helping Dallas take a big lead, then made two free throws with 15.5 seconds left to



Los Angeles Lakers' Chris Mihm, left, who replaced Shaquille O'Neal as the Lakers' starting center after O'Neal was traded to the Miami Heat in the offseason, had 23 points and 12 rebounds in an 89-78 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Tuesday night.

seal the victory. He also had 10 rebounds and five assists.

Michael Finley added 18 points for Dallas. Fred Miller led Sacramento with 24 points, and Chris Webber had 21 points and 10 rebounds.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	0	0	
New York	0	0	
New York	0	0	
Philadelphia	0	0	
Toronto	0	0	
Southeast Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	0	0	
Charlotte	0	0	
Orlando	0	0	
Washington	0	0	
Central Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	1	0	1.000
Chicago	0	0	
Cleveland	0	0	
Indiana	0	0	
Milwaukee	0	0	

Western Conference

Southwest Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	1	0	1.000
Memphis	0	0	
New Orleans	0	0	
San Antonio	0	0	
Northwest Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	0	0	
Portland	0	0	
Seattle	0	0	
Utah	0	0	
Pacific Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	0	1	0.000
Golden State	0	0	
Sacramento	0	0	
Phoenix	0	0	

Tuesday's games			
Home	Visitor	Score	Time
Detroit 87	Houston 79	87-79	10:27
Dallas 107	Sacramento 98	107-98	10:27
Wednesday's games			
Home	Visitor	Score	Time
Indiana at Cleveland			
Houston at Toronto			
Philadelphia at Boston			
Phoenix at Memphis			
Miami at New Jersey			
New York at Minnesota			
Dallas at San Antonio			
Sacramento at Atlanta			
Atlanta at Phoenix			
San Antonio at Dallas			
Seattle at L.A. Clippers			
Portland at Golden State			

Thursday's games

Home	Visitor	Score	Time
Washington at Charlotte			
Cleveland at Miami			
Minnesota at Detroit			
Friday's games			
Home	Visitor	Score	Time
Detroit at Portland			
Philadelphia at Boston			
Atlanta at New Orleans			
Orlando at New Jersey			
San Antonio at Phoenix			
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers			
Portland at Golden State			

Saturday's games

Home	Visitor	Score	Time
Miami at Cleveland			
Orlando at Charlotte			
San Antonio at New Jersey			
Philadelphia at Detroit			
San Antonio at New Jersey			
Chicago at Indiana			
New Orleans at Minnesota			
Cleveland at Milwaukee			

Pistons: Team play trumps McGrady-Yao combo

PISTONS, FROM BACK PAGE

The Rockets shot just 39 percent. Charlie Ward had 13 points, Maurice Taylor had 12 and Jim Jackson added 10.

Rashed Wallace, Billups and Prince made three-pointers early in the fourth quarter to cap a 13-2 run, putting the Pistons ahead 68-61.

After Detroit's stingy defense forced a shot-clock violation midway through the fourth, Ben Wallace's tip-in gave the Pistons a 76-66 lead.

The Rockets didn't get closer than five after that.

Detroit had one last chance to enjoy its accomplishment from last season. Before the game, the Pistons were presented with championship rings by NBA Commissioner David Stern.

When the nine returning Pistons walked to center court for their rings during a 15-minute ceremony, they wore huge, gold-plated black belts provided by Hasbain Wallace that read: "World Heavyweight Wrestling Champion."

Just before Detroit's third world championship banner was raised to the rafters, Billups reached his right hand out and grabbed it.

"You wait so long for this day to happen and when it happens, you just want to cherish it," said Hamilton, who put his ring on during the ceremony. "You forget that you've got a game to play."

The Rockets acquired McGrady during the offseason hoping he and Yao could form an inside-outside combination that could replace O'Neal and Bryant as the dominant duo in the NBA.

"It's going to take time, but those two guys are going to be really special together," Pistons coach Larry Brown said.

Antonio McDyess was ejected from his Pistons debut for kicking the ball while complaining about a foul. He had three points, one rebound and one steal in nine minutes against Houston.

McDyess was called for a foul as he jumped for a rebound with 5:51 left in the second quarter. As McDyess walked downcourt, he dropped the basketball, kicked it and was ejected because of a new NBA rule.



Houston Rockets' Tracy McGrady (1) driving on Detroit Pistons' Elden Campbell, missed 12 of 18 shots and scored 10 points.

Sprewell cited after argument with officer

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Latrell Sprewell of the Minnesota Timberwolves received a misdemeanor citation Tuesday after being involved in a verbal confrontation with a police officer.

Sprewell, who was criticized by NBA Commissioner David Stern for comments he made regarding a contract extension, was riding in a vehicle that was stopped in downtown Minneapolis about 6 p.m. Tuesday, police spokesman Ron Reier said.

Sprewell spoke up while the driver was being questioned about licensing and insurance.

"Somehow, Sprewell attempted to intervene in the situation," Reier said. "He was then ordered to get out of the car."

Sprewell ignored the order and was ticketed for failing to obey the lawful order of a police officer, Reier said.

Sprewell has demanded that the team extend his contract, or he'll ask to be traded. Sprewell averaged 16.8 points last season and is due to make \$14.6 million this year.

Timberwolves vice president Kevin McHale declined to comment about the citation.

Average ticket price \$45.28

CHICAGO — Even without Shaquille O'Neal, the Los Angeles Lakers have the NBA's highest average ticket price for the third straight year at \$77.36, more than \$30 above the league average of \$45.28.

The league average is up 2.1 percent from the 2003-04 season, according to the Team Marketing Report's annual study, which was released Tuesday.

Briefs

The New York Knicks, who were swept in the first round of the playoffs by New Jersey, raised ticket prices 10 percent and had the league's second-highest average ticket at \$70.51.

The league's lowest average ticket is for a Golden State Warriors game at \$27.69, a 5 percent increase. The expansion Charlotte Bobcats will be charging \$36.61 per ticket.

Status of Heat center O'Neal is game-time decision

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Bothered by a strained left hamstring, Shaquille O'Neal said he would decide before tipoff whether he would play in the Miami Heat's opener Wednesday night against the New Jersey Nets.

"It's feeling pretty good. I practiced OK this morning," O'Neal said after the team's morning shootaround. "It's kind of sore, but it's feeling OK. I'm going to stretch, eat some pudding and some ice cream, and then I'll think about it."

O'Neal sat out practice for four consecutive days after aggravating the injury, which has hampered him throughout the preseason.

He estimated himself to be about 70-75 percent of full strength.

"I can't run as fast, I can't move laterally as fast," O'Neal said. "It's really frustrating. I worked very hard, put in a lot of work, but injuries like this won't last forever."

SPORTS



Players meet with union officials for update on lockout, which has no end in sight, Page 34

Winners ... and still champions

Pistons raise banner, shut down Rockets in opener

BY LARRY LAGE
The Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Yao and T-Mac experienced what Shaq and Kobe did.

The defending NBA champion Detroit Pistons are a tough match for any dynamic duo.

Rasheed Wallace, one of five Pistons to score in double figures, had 24 points to help Detroit defeat the Houston Rockets 87-79 Tuesday night in the first game of the NBA season.

"A lot of people are still doubting us, so I guess we just have to go win it all again," Wallace said.

Tracy McGrady and Yao Ming, playing their first regular-season game together, found out what Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal did during their final five games together with the Los Angeles Lakers: The Pistons, relentless on defense and well-balanced on offense, are difficult to beat.

"When you have one or two guys, we've got five coming at you," Richard Hamilton said. "That's tough."

McGrady missed 12 of 18 shots and finished with 18 points after scoring just three during the first half. Yao had just seven points on 2-for-9 shooting.

"They play 'D'. That's why they won a championship," McGrady said. "They did a great job of picking up the intensity in the second half, and they hit shots in the fourth."

Detroit's entire starting lineup from last season is back, and all five players scored at least 10. Aside from Rasheed Wallace's big night on 10-for-19 shooting, Chauncey Billups had 17, Hamilton scored 15, Ben Wallace had 15 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks.

Tayshaun Prince scored 10 while smothering McGrady defensively much like he did against Bryant during the NBA Finals.

"It's very similar to guarding Kobe," Prince said. "I just had to use my length."

SEE PISTONS ON PAGE 39



Detroit Pistons guard Richard Hamilton shows off his NBA championship ring as he leaves the locker room following the Pistons' season-opening victory over the Houston Rockets at The Palace in Auburn Hills, Mich., on Tuesday.

KRT



Bryant, Mihm lead Shaq-less Lakers to opening victory over Nuggets

Page 39



Detroit Pistons center Ben Wallace raises his arms during a banner-raising celebration for their 2004 NBA championship prior to their season opener against the Houston Rockets in Auburn Hills, Mich., on Tuesday. During the ceremony, the nine returning Pistons wore gold-plated black belts provided by Rasheed Wallace that read: World Heavyweight Wrestling Champion. The Pistons defeated the Rockets 87-79.

AP



Vikings hope to give Colts run for their money with full backfield

Page 36



Jags QB Leftwich might not miss game time despite knee injury

Page 35

Yankees shortstop Jeter wins first Gold Glove award

Page 37